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Testimony in Support of House Bill 377 – Montgomery County – Alcoholic Beverages – Consumption Only Marketplace License

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of House Bill 377 – Montgomery County – Alcoholic Beverages – Consumption Only Marketplace License.

This bill establishes a consumption only marketplace license in Montgomery County and authorizes the Board of License Commissioners to issue the license to the developer of a commercial shopping center. The annual license fee is \$4,000. The license enables developers of commercial shopping centers in Montgomery County to allow patrons to consume beer, wine, and liquor in designated outdoor areas under specific circumstances. These circumstances include:

- the shopping center encompassing ten acres;
- the shopping center having an outside area designated for alcohol consumption that is located within the shopping center;
- the shopping center having at least one establishment that has been issued a specified liquor license;
- the alcoholic beverage having been purchased at such an establishment; the
 beverage being in a container that is branded in a way that identifies the selling
 establishment; and the establishment being contiguous to the designated outdoor
 area.

In applying for the license, the developer must provide a security plan that has been cleared by the Montgomery County Police Department.

I think this measure contains adequate guidelines and safeguards to ensure responsible outdoor consumption of alcoholic beverages in a marketplace environment. I respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 377.