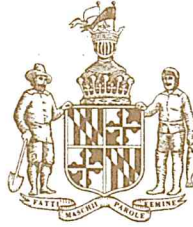


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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

***TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 965***

***CHARLES COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – MULTIPLE  
CLASS B LICENSES***

***ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE***

***MARCH 31, 2022***

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 965 is a straightforward bill that modifies the Charles County multiple licensing plan law to permit certain Charles County Class B License types to increase the number of alcoholic beverage licenses held by a single individual within the Charles County limits from one license to two licenses.

This legislation comes at the request of Charles County government and is intended to provide the same opportunity to smaller businesses that currently exists for larger entities within Charles County. Currently, the only license type that allows for a licensee to have more than one license is a Class B-BLX license of which up to six licenses can be issued to the same alcoholic beverage license holder. To be eligible for the Class B-BLX license, a licensee must have a capital investment of at least \$550,000 (not including land/buildings) and seating for at least 150 people. Because of these requirements, most small businesses do not qualify, and Class B- BLX licenses are generally only held by chain restaurants.

This is simple piece of legislation designed only to level the playing field for small business owners in Charles County.

**For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 965.**