



TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

The White Marlin Capital of the World

February 16, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Delegate C. T. Wilson
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: HB 113 Worcester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Ocean City
Promoter's License**

Dear Chairman Wilson and Members of the Economics Matter Committee:

I submit this written testimony on behalf of the entire Mayor and City Council of Ocean City in support of House Bill 113. Presently in Ocean City, the only way that alcohol can be sold at a Special Event is to have local non-profit organization purchase and serve the alcohol. As the Town continues to grow its Special Events and the attendee count increases, the current manner in which alcohol can be sold at these Events simply is not the best practice nor is it practical.

The Ocean City Promoter's License Bill will authorize the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners to issue a license to a Promoter directly to sell and serve beer, wine, and liquor at a Special Event provided that the event is, (1) located within the corporate limits of the Town of Ocean City; (2) on property owned by the Town; and (3) is an event that is approved by, in writing to the Board, by the Ocean City Police Department. Additionally, as a practical matter, all Special Events come before the Mayor and City for approval prior to moving forward.

Life safety is the paramount concern for the Town for of all its residents and visitors. This Bill ensures that the service and sale of alcohol is conducted in professional manner, through Promoters who are accustomed to large crowds. This Bill further allows the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners to adopt further rules and regulations that it may see fit in the issuance of the License.

While this Bill only pertains to events within the corporate limits of the Town, the Worcester County Commissioners have written in support of this Bill. Additionally, the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners have also written in support of this Bill and its legal counsel has reviewed and approved the contents of this Bill.

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The Town strongly desires to grow tourism through its Special Events and attract first class performances and festivals, which is a benefit to not only all that visit Ocean City but to the residents of the entire County. The Town however equally desires to have a vehicle to allow for the service and sale of alcohol in the safest possible way. This Bill accomplishes both goals.

Finally, this Bill does not seek to end the long-standing relationship the Town has had with its non-profits and the Town has made a commitment to those non-profits that for all Town-sponsored Special Events, such as Sunfest and Springfest, the non-profits would continue to be utilized.

On behalf Ocean City, I ask for your support for this Bill and I appreciate your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Meehan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Richard W. Meehan
Mayor of Ocean City, Maryland