

SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH  
*Legislative District 30*  
Anne Arundel County



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 104  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3578 · 301-858-3578  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3578  
Fax 410-841-3156 · 301-858-3156  
Sarah.Elfreth@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety,  
Transportation, and Environment

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and  
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area

Chair, Joint Subcommittee on  
Program Open Space/Agricultural  
Land Preservation

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 23, 2023

**Testimony in Favor of SB0472**  
**City of Annapolis - Alcoholic Beverages - Art Establishment**

Chairman Griffith, Vice-Chair Klausmeier, & members of the Finance Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 472 to create an arts establishment beer and wine license for nonprofit arts-related organizations in the City of Annapolis.

Currently, nonprofit arts organizations around the City have to obtain a daily beer and wine license anytime they host an event and want to serve alcoholic beverages - creating both financial and bureaucratic constraints on these organizations that already operate on thin financial margins. In one example of a current nonprofit arts organization, Maryland Hall currently spends approximately \$6,000 and significant staff time securing individual liquor licenses in support of robust programming. SB 472 would allow these organizations to purchase a one time license, omitting the time and cost associated with individual daily licenses.

After introducing this legislation, I worked with the City to amend the legislation to:

1. Increase the cost of the annual license from \$250 to \$1000 to make it more comparable to other beer and wine licenses in the City.
2. Ensure that only nonprofit organizations are the only organizations eligible – not those that use art as a for-profit purpose.

The Anne Arundel County Senators have already unanimously voted favorable on this legislation with the aforementioned amendment. I once again respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 472.