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**BILL NO.:** **HB 914**

**TITLE:** Winery and Vineyard Economic Development Grant Program – Modifications

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Jones

**COMMITTEE:** Appropriations

**POSITION:** **SUPPORTS**

**DATE:** March 7, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 914 – Winery and Vineyard Economic Development Grant Program – Modifications. This legislation allows the Maryland Department of Commerce to best distribute funds from the Wine and Vineyard Economic Development Grant Program.

Existing wineries across the State of Maryland can apply to the Wine and Vineyard Economic Development Grant Program to offset some of their expenses for capital projects. Furthermore, the grant program is intended to provide grant funding for individuals seeking to establish a winery in the State. Baltimore County supports initiatives to expand the agritourism industry. The Grant Program bolstered by this legislation will provide needed assistance to this burgeoning industry and each of Baltimore County’s wineries. HB 914 will further enable the partnership between Baltimore County, the State of Maryland, and local farms to build a more viable and sustainable agritourism industry.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 914 from the House Appropriations committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at [jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov).