

DANA JONES
Legislative District 30A
Anne Arundel County

—
Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees

Vice Chair, Health and Social Services

Oversight Committee on Pensions

—
Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review

—
Vice Chair, Anne Arundel
County Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Delegate Dana Jones
Before the Appropriations Committee

In Support of HB 914
Winery and Vineyard Economic Development Grant Program - Modifications
March 7th 2024, 1:00 pm

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and my friends on the Appropriations Committee,

I come before you today to introduce House Bill 914 Winery and Vineyard Economic Development Grant Program - Modifications which modifies the grant program Maryland instituted two years ago. This legislation consists of minor technical fixes that the Department of Commerce and the Maryland Wineries Association have requested.

The Development grant fund promotes Maryland Wineries and vineyards, boosts tourism, local agriculture, and helps to preserve our open spaces. These technical changes give Commerce more flexibility to administer the fund, removing the date that applications must be submitted by and the date that the applications must be awarded by and gives Commerce the discretion to set those dates. House Bill 914 will improve the administration of this grant program and allow small business owners to benefit to the full extent they are eligible.

The Department of Commerce has submitted a letter in favor of these modifications and last week the Senate cross-file, SB 746, was unanimously voted out of Senate Finance.

With that, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 914.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Jones".