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HB 762 DATE: February 19, 2024

SPONSOR: Montgomery County Delegation

ASSIGNED TO: Economic Matters

CONTACT PERSON: Melanie Wenger (melanie.wenger@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support

Montgomery County – Alcoholic Beverages –
Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor License – Off-Premises Consumption
MC 9-24

This bill allows Class B licensed restaurants and hotels to sell beer and wine in containers sealed with the manufacturer's original seal for off-premises consumption to customers who purchased prepared food from the licensed restaurant or hotel. The Board of Liquor Control is authorized to adopt related regulations, including limits on the quantity of beer and wine that may be sold to a customer for off-premises consumption in a single transaction.

Similar authority was granted via State legislation enacted in 2021 (House Bill 12) that terminated on June 30 of last year. That legislation allowed licensed restaurants and hotels to sell alcoholic beverages, including mixed drinks or cocktails, in sealed containers for off-premises consumption. It also allowed those beverages to be delivered to customers who purchased prepared food at the licensed restaurant or hotel if delivery was made by a restaurant or hotel employee.

Montgomery County requested the introduction of this bill, now HB 762, which reflects the County's support for restoring the key provisions of the 2021 State enabling law.