

# Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: KULDIP SHERGILL

Position: FAV

members of the Maryland House and Senate:

My name is Kuldip Shergill and I am the owner of Bayview Liquor, a small liquor store in North East. We've been part of the community since 2015, and have loved serving customers who come into our doors. More recently we have also seen how much customers want to be able to enjoy the convenience of delivery straight to their homes — which is why I urge you to support HB 808/SB 456.

Since opening my liquor store, I've always valued feedback from my customers — it helps me to know what kind of selection to prioritize, how we can operate more efficiently, and keep bringing back satisfied customers. Recently, I have been getting a lot of calls asking if my store can deliver a six pack of beer or a bottle of wine. As much as we would like to, the answer is that we are unable to because doing so would require hiring an additional employee — something my business simply cannot afford right now.

That's why I am encouraged by these bills to allow liquor store owners like me to enjoy the benefits of responsible alcohol delivery. Getting on platforms like DoorDash and others that offer third-party delivery services could be a big boost for my business, opening up new crucial revenue streams and meeting our customers where they are. To

The appeal to our customers would be clear: they get more options when it comes to having orders conveniently delivered straight to their door. Delivery also creates a more fair marketplace for customers because they can see the prices across different liquor stores, helping them save money. This is great for small businesses like mine too that may offer a more competitive price but otherwise would not have been discovered by those customers.

Meanwhile, alcohol delivery can also help create job opportunities in Maryland by increasing sales for liquor stores, thereby allowing us to bring on more staff as our business continues to grow. I take pride in every employee that I'm able to hire at my own store, and the opportunity to expand our business would mean even more hiring down the road.

Importantly, this bill also rightly takes into consideration how these deliveries must be completed safely. One of the main benefits of alcohol delivery is that it means the person ordering doesn't need to drive to get alcohol, which makes it safer for both the customer and others who are on the road. If drivers are required to complete a safety training course and scan the ID of the person they're delivering to, then we should be confident that deliveries will be appropriately made.

I have seen just how important it is to be listening to our customers, and being able to offer delivery on these platforms would make it easier for us to do just that. Thank you for your consideration and I hope you will keep my support in mind as you consider this important issue.

Sincerely,

**Kuldip Shergill**

Owner, New Bay View Liquor  
3135 Joseph Biggs Memorial Hwy  
North East, Maryland 21901



**[MD] HB 808 Alcohol Deliveyr\_TechNet\_written\_pdf.p**

Uploaded by: margaret durkin

Position: FAV



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February 15, 2024

The Honorable C.T. Wilson  
Chair  
House Economic Matters Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
231 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

*RE: HB 808 (Atterbeary) - Alcoholic Beverages – Retail Delivery – Local Delivery Service Permit – TechNet Support.*

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of TechNet, I'm writing to offer comments on HB 808 related to alcohol delivery.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.2 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance. TechNet has offices in Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Harrisburg, Olympia, Sacramento, Silicon Valley, and Washington, D.C.

TechNet seeks to encourage, enable, and advance American leadership in innovation. The sharing economy is creating new jobs and income opportunities in every corner of the country, allowing people to work independently and on discretionary schedules, use their personal property and skills to generate income, help them expand their businesses, and provide for themselves and their families. HB 808 recognizes this unique nature of the sharing economy.

Safe and successful alcohol delivery, through employees, has been legal in many Maryland counties. HB 808 expands on existing law by allowing liquor stores the option of contracting with third party services instead of using their own employees, which would level the playing field. Many liquor stores in Maryland are currently allowed to deliver, but they must use their own employees to do so. Smaller, independent liquor stores often have difficulty affording the staffing for the technical know-how to fulfill delivery orders, and are at a disadvantage to those

larger, well-resourced stores. Customers are also increasingly looking to have alcohol delivered the same way as groceries and meals, but many liquor stores in Maryland are shut out of this growing revenue opportunity.

The bill requires several safety measures to ensure alcohol is delivered safely and responsibly, including delivery drivers must be 21 years of age or over and have received an approved alcohol awareness program. And delivery drivers must verify the identification of the recipient at the time of delivery.

This bill works within Maryland's long-standing alcohol framework that delegates most alcohol regulation to local licensing boards. Third-party delivery will only be permitted by those liquor stores who have been authorized to make deliveries by their local boards.

Finally, HB 808 would also open significant earning opportunities for gig workers that choose to make deliveries on third party platforms because alcohol deliveries are usually higher value than food deliveries. In turn, this translates into higher delivery pay and higher tips for drivers.

Allowing third party alcohol delivery will positively impact the citizens of Maryland, and especially for consumers and gig workers doing deliveries. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Please reach out should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Durkin*

Margaret Durkin  
TechNet Executive Director, Pennsylvania & the Mid-Atlantic

**MDDCSAM HB 808 alcohol delivery Atterbeary.pdf**

Uploaded by: Joseph Adams, MD

Position: UNF



*MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.*

**HB 808 Alcoholic Beverages – Retail Delivery – Local Delivery Service Permit**

House Economic Matters Committee February 19, 2024

**UNFAVORABLE**

The availability of alcohol by home-delivery was expanded during the Covid pandemic as an understandable attempt to protect businesses. However, studies over the last several years have consistently found that home delivery is associated with an increase in alcohol consumption patterns more likely to result in harms such as heavy drinking or binge drinking.

In a study of the effect of home delivery on alcohol consumption volumes, **adults who had alcohol delivered (vs. not delivered) reported consuming 60% more wine, and approximately three times more spirits.** (Trangenstein 2023).

In a 2023 study, **alcohol delivery was associated with six times higher odds of drinking at hazardous/harmful levels.** In addition, persons  $\leq 25$  years who had alcohol delivered were significantly more likely to report never having their identification verified vs. those purchasing in-person. (Colbert 2023).

In a 2021 study, **alcohol delivery was associated with a 75% greater likelihood of heavier drinking than in-person purchases.** (Huckle 2021).

In 2022, it was found that **individuals having alcohol delivered consumed more drinks, drank on more days, and were nearly two times more likely to engage in binge drinking than participants who purchased alcohol in-person.** The authors conclude that it is important for states to consider the potential public health implications of home delivery. (Grossman 2022).

**Alcohol use is the fifth leading cause of preventable death in the U.S.** (NIAAA), leading to over 140,000 deaths and 3.6 million years of potential life lost (YPLL) each year in the United States from 2015 – 2019, shortening the lives of those who died by an average of 26 years. Alcohol use was responsible for 1 in 5 deaths among adults aged 20-49 years. (CDC)

Problems associated with alcohol use include high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, liver disease, digestive problems, cancer (of the breast, mouth, throat, esophagus, voice box, liver, colon, and rectum), dementia, poor school performance, depression, anxiety, social and family problems, unemployment, impaired immune function, and alcohol use disorder. (CDC)

Respectfully,

Joseph A. Adams, MD, FASAM, Board certified in internal medicine and addiction medicine

(continued ...)



## REFERENCES:

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CDC - Alcohol & Public Health - Alcohol Basics

<https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/alcohol-use.htm> (Accessed Feb 2024)

# **HB808-3rd-party-delv-ATCN-UNF-2024.pdf**

Uploaded by: Raimee Eck

Position: UNF



*Mission: To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy Vision: Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities*

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**HB808: Alcoholic Beverages – Retail Delivery – Local Delivery Service Permit (“3<sup>rd</sup> party delivery”)**

**Hearing Date: February 19, 2024**

**Committee: Economic Matters**

**Position: Unfavorable**

On behalf of the Maryland Public Health Association’s Alcohol, Tobacco & Cannabis Network, we would like to thank you all for your work to evaluate and establish alcohol regulations that will keep our youth and communities safe. We are opposed to HB808, which would allow for third party delivery services to deliver alcohol across the state.

Many of our laws and policies regulating the availability and access to alcohol have been based on years of scientific evidence and practice to reduce underage drinking, excessive alcohol consumption, alcohol-related injuries, alcohol-related hospitalizations, and alcohol-related deaths. This legislation does not fall under this umbrella of solid evidence. What we do know is that some studies show that adults who use alcohol delivery services tend to drink on more days, drink heavier on those days, and report binge drinking more frequently.<sup>1,2</sup> Delivery services have also been shown to be used to continue drinking sessions when they otherwise would have ended.<sup>3</sup>

In addition to supporting heavier drinking, there is greater risk of increased youth access. Many delivery service laws use point of delivery ID checks. Compliance checks on these systems with underage youth find failure rates up to 58% of the time,<sup>3,4</sup> compared with traditional brick and mortar businesses, which may have positive compliance rates of 80-99% of the time.<sup>5</sup>

Also at issue is the circumventing of local planning and zoning for alcohol availability. Local liquor boards issue licenses and permits that allow a certain amount of access to alcohol in the community. Delivery negates these planning considerations and increases the access and availability of alcohol in a community.<sup>6</sup>

Further, this legislation provides for no type of enforcement resources or surveillance for local jurisdictions. Enforcement is difficult and very costly, which is also one reason why data is sparse.

Delivery drivers also have no incentive NOT to deliver the alcohol, as they are reliant on tips from customers. Cancelling a delivery involves not only losing a tip, but then losing paid time due to the trip back to the store and the time to return the product. It is also concerning that a delivery driver is the one responsible for assessing whether the recipient is intoxicated or whether the ID is fake. Retail outlets are better equipped to refuse sales and adequately check IDs. It also presents an easy opportunity for a brick and mortar retailer to essentially turn into a warehouse for online orders.

Initially presented as a way to address declining sales due to COVID-19, we then saw an increase in alcohol sales nationwide. Increased alcohol sales accompanied by worsening mental health issues among Marylanders is a real concern for professionals and for our communities. Increasing access to alcohol leads to an increase in consumption and related harms, including mental health and substance use disorders.

We urge an unfavorable report on HB808.

*The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 150-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing health disparities that plague our state and our nation.*

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