

ANTONIO HAYES
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Baltimore City

Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Friday, February 23, 2024

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 904: Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor Licenses

Dear Chairman Beidle and esteemed members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 904, which would authorize the Board of License Commissioners for Baltimore City to issue a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license in certain areas: namely Ward 4, precincts 1 and 2.

The bill establishes the requirements for a holder of the license, including that the average daily receipts from the sale of food be at least 51% of the total daily receipts of the restaurant. Restaurants must be classified by the Baltimore City Health Department as high or moderate priority food service facilities. They must also have executed a memorandum of understanding with the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore.

Senate Bill 904 has provisions forbidding the sale of beverages on off-premises consumption and has regulations preventing the transfer for the license from its initial location. If a license is renewed, the license holder must file a renewal application including average daily receipts, an affidavit from a certified public accountant that verifies that license holder meets these requirements, and other information that the board requires. The Board may not issue a new license after June 30, 2028, but may continue to renew licenses issued before June 30, 2028.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, and I urge you to support the passage of Senate Bill 904.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes".

Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District – MD