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Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Friday, February 23, 2024

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1008 Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - 40th Alcoholic Beverages District - Revisions

Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Senate Bill 1008, which proposes crucial revisions to the regulations governing alcoholic beverages in the 40th alcoholic beverages district in Baltimore City. This bill not only addresses the needs of local businesses but also fosters community development and economic growth in the area.

The establishment of a Class M-F (Municipal Family Fun Center) alcoholic beverages license in the 40th alcoholic beverages district is a progressive measure that recognizes the evolving needs and preferences of residents and visitors alike. By allowing for the issuance of this license specifically for use at the Shake and Bake, a municipal bowling alley and skating rink on Pennsylvania Avenue. The bill promotes the revitalization of recreational spaces and enhances the entertainment options available to the community.

Next, the bill will allow for the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners to issue a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license for Fishnet, a restaurant on West 29th Street, This presents a valuable opportunity for local entrepreneurs to contribute to the culinary landscape of the district.

Additionally, the bill's specification regarding the Class A license issued for a premises on East Biddle Street ensures continuity and stability for existing businesses by extending the expiration date until July 1, 2025, for the purpose of renewal.

In conclusion, Senate Bill 1008 represents a significant opportunity to promote economic vitality, community engagement, and responsible alcohol management in the 40th alcoholic beverages district of Baltimore City. I urge the esteemed members of this Senate to support this bill for the benefit of local businesses and the broader community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Antonio L. Hayes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District – MD