

**Finance Committee  
Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair**

**Written Testimony – SUPPORT - Senate Bill 428  
Garrett County Alcoholic Beverages Act of 2024**

**Mr. Paul Edwards, Chairman  
Board of Garrett County Commissioners  
February 23, 2024**

The Board County Commissioners for Garrett County supports Senate Bill 428. This legislative request relates to Title 21 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article specific to Garrett County. The Garrett County Board of License Commissioners /Liquor Control Board presented the following legislative requests to the Garrett County Delegation during the Board of County Commissioners Public Meeting on November 21, 2023:

- The legislative request includes housekeeping amendments, establishing new licenses, altering residency requirements, creating penalties and prohibitions at a place of adult entertainment, and increasing the maximum fine.
- Creates a Class B Beer Resort License and Class B Beer & Wine Resort License to allow a qualifying business that has more than one facility on contiguous property to have an additional license that allows just beer or beer and wine sales.
- Creates a Beer, Wine & Liquor Festival License to allow limited distilled spirits tastings at the Deep Creek Lake Art & Wine Festival.
- Update the various sections of Title 21 specific to hours of operation on a Sunday were permitted in Garrett County. The change in hours was authorized last session. HB0905/SB0821 - Garrett County Alcoholic Beverages Act of 2023.
- Change the local residency requirement to allow for a resident of the State at the time of application to qualify.
- Create a prohibition of allowing alcoholic beverages at a place of adult entertainment and establish certain penalties.
- Amend the maximum fine allowed by the Garrett County Board of License Commissioners to be increased to \$5,000.

Garrett County supports Senate Bill 428 and urges the Committee to give a **FAVORABLE** report. Thank you for your time and consideration in this very important matter. Please let me know if you have any questions or need further information.