



February 27, 2024

House Bill 1306

Admissions and Amusement Tax - Food and Beverages

House Ways and Means Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1306 – Admissions and Amusement Tax - Food and Beverages. This enabling Bill would allow counties to impose an admissions and amusement tax no greater than 2% on certain food and beverage sales.

Maryland's local governments are limited in our revenue options by outdated, state-defined tax systems that have not kept up with today's economy. Local responsibilities have grown tremendously, and include maintaining and improving our schools, keeping our transportation infrastructure updated, funding our public safety departments, and other obligations. Local jurisdictions need varied and flexible streams of revenue in order to respond to these and other county needs.

Anne Arundel County already imposes the maximum allowed rate of 10% on a wide variety of admission and amusement charges, such as entertainment activities and bingo. This legislation would give us the option to decide whether to impose a more limited admission and amusement tax rate of no greater than 2% on additional entertainment activities - specifically food and beverage sold for onsite consumption. This kind of local revenue flexibility is necessary for local governments to manage our local budgets. This expanded revenue authority will provide counties with the right tools to meet the changing needs of our communities, stimulate economic growth, and enhance the quality of life for residents.

This enabling legislation will give us the flexibility to tailor our local tax structures to the needs of our communities. For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 1306.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steuart Pittman".

Steuart Pittman
County Executive