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STATE OF MARYLAND  
**BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**  
FOR BALTIMORE CITY  
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TO: The Honorable Members of the Economic Matters Alcoholic Beverages Subcommittee

FROM: Michelle Wirzberger, Esq., Deputy Executive Secretary

RE: Senate Bill 284 Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – Hours of Operation Violations – Civil Penalties

DATE: March 26, 2025

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Valderrama and members of the Economic Matters Alcoholic Beverages Subcommittee, please be advised that the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City Supports Senate Bill 284.

Senate Bill 284 would establish a mandatory fine of \$1,000 for the first offense and \$2,000 for any subsequent offense of operating a liquor licensed establishment outside of the permitted hours of operation as specified within the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article.

Generally, when the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City finds a licensee in violation of a Liquor Board rule or an alcohol law, they are permitted to impose a fine up to \$500 for a first offense. There are some exceptions to that limited fine amount, for instance, a licensee can be fined up to \$1,000 for the first offense of selling alcohol to a minor.

This mandatory fine structure would serve as a very strong penalty to be used against someone who breaks the rules. Moreover, it would signal to all Licensees, the importance of complying with the hours of operation imposed by the Delegation and designed to preserve the health and welfare of the community.

Therefore, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 284.