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2011-D COMMERCE PARK DR.
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

(410) 222-1148
FAX: (410) 222-1810

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Date: February 18, 2026

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Senate Finance Committee

RE: Senate Bill 396 – Written Testimony (Support)

The Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners respectfully submits this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 396.

This legislation aligns the Chief Inspector classification with the executive-level responsibilities of the position and reflects the formal recommendation of the Anne Arundel County Office of Personnel. The proposal is fully funded within the Board's existing operating budget and does not increase costs to licensees or require additional County appropriation.

The enclosed summary, along with an Official Letter of Recommendation from the Office of Personnel and a Comparative Analysis for Comparable Positions in Neighboring Jurisdictions, is submitted for the Committee's consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward I. Aronson
Executive Director
Board of License Commissioners
for Anne Arundel County

SENATE BILL 396: CHIEF INSPECTOR-COMPENSATION

SUBJECT: Reclassification of the Chief Inspector Position from NR-05 to NR-15

LEGISLATIVE INTENT: The Chief Inspector position serves as a key strategic partner with executive-level responsibilities, overseeing critical full-time initiatives and managing 19 inspectors—a role that demands 24/7 availability. Additionally, the position acts as the primary liaison for law enforcement and oversees all investigative efforts in the county. However, the position is currently classified at NR-05. Given that the County has confirmed that full-time employees are typically graded at NR-08 or higher, the current classification fails to reflect the position's elevated scope of work.

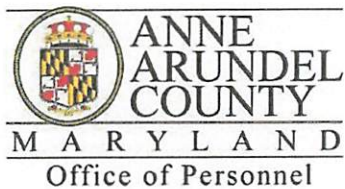
PROPOSED RECLASSIFICATION: The Board respectfully advocates for the adjustment of the Chief Inspector's **salary range** through a necessary classification change from **NR-05 to NR-15**. This reclassification is necessary to align the position's compensation with its responsibilities and current scope.

Current Classification (NR-05): \$36,378 – \$67,252
Proposed Classification (NR-15): \$59,612 – \$110,209

COUNTY CONFIRMATION: This adjustment is verified and fully supported by the Office of Personnel. Following their internal job-leveling research to evaluate the necessary knowledge and skills for this role, they have officially **recommended** reallocating the position to **NR-15**.

FISCAL IMPACT: Like the other adjustments, this change is covered entirely by the Board's existing operating budget and will not result in increased costs for licensees or taxpayers.

ENCLOSURE: Official Letter of Recommendation – Office of Personnel
Comparative Analysis for Comparable Positions in Neighboring Jurisdictions



MEMORANDUM

TO: Edward Aronson
Executive Director

FROM: Jacqueline Atkinson *JRA*
Assistant Personnel Officer

SUBJECT: Grade Reallocation of Chief Inspector Bd Lic Comm
Duane Gottschalk, PSC# 76120

DATE: January 27, 2026

Edward, in response to the grade reallocation request for the above position control number, our office performed job-leveling research to evaluate the knowledge and skills that are necessary to perform the job responsibilities assigned to the requested position study. The recommendation for the classification under study is a grade reallocation of the Chief Inspector Bd Lic Comm position from NR5 to NR15. Factors that were considered in the decision to reclassify the position included a review of the nature and complexity of work performed in the position and how those duties are exercised within the current grade. The classification section evaluated the duties, responsibilities, skills, and knowledge of the position as listed in the job description. Furthermore, the study included an analysis of job factors utilizing the Quantitative Evaluation System (QES), an evaluation of market compensation and classification data of comparable positions in local jurisdictions.

An evaluative analysis of information conducted during this review and classification study determines that the position ensures that the rules and regulations of the Board and state law are followed by Liquor Board licensees in a manner consistent with the well-being of citizens and the steady flow of fair commerce. The position manages inspections and investigations by receiving and reviewing complaints, overseeing investigations to completion, approving or denying special event applications, and conducting or assigning stakeouts and surveillance when necessary. The Chief Inspector interviews and onboards Inspectors, issues credentials and equipment, assigns sectors, oversees required training and security clearances, and keeps the Chairman informed of developments. The role provides management and oversight of part-time Inspectors and the Deputy Chief Inspector, monitors activity reports, supervises summons service, special events, and hearing preparations, and serves as a liaison with law enforcement agencies, regulatory partners, and licensed facilities. The Chief Inspector attends Board hearings and meetings, performs administrative and enforcement duties, maintains records and inspection technology, coordinates staffing and scheduling, consults on budget and operational needs, and performs other duties deemed necessary to fulfill the mission and goals of the Liquor Board.

Recommendation: Grade reallocation of the Chief Inspector Bd Lic Comm, NR5 to NR15. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact me or Sarah Heffernan on extension 7207.

| County (City) & Comparable Position | Minimum | Midpoint | Maximum |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Baltimore City <i>Chief Inspector</i> | \$85,660.00 | \$111,297.50 | \$136,935.00 |
| Montgomery County <i>Program Manager II</i> | \$83,556.00 | \$108,823.00 | \$134,086.00 |
| Howard County <i>Detective, Alcoholic Beverage Inspector</i> | \$75,234.00 | \$104,312.00 | \$133,390.00 |
| Prince Georges County <i>Chief Liquor Inspector</i> | \$78,049.00 | \$123,204.00 | \$168,359.00 |
| Prince Georges County Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector | \$70,794.00 | \$111,751.00 | \$152,708.00 |
| Anne Arundel County <i>Chief Inspector – NR-05</i> | \$36,378.00 | \$51,815.00 | \$67,252.00 |
| Anne Arundel County <i>Chief Inspector – Proposed NR-15</i> | \$59,612.00 | \$84,910.50 | \$110,209.00 |

| Full Time Staff | Minimum | Midpoint | Maximum |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Executive Director - NR 17 | \$69,126.00 | \$101,702.50 | \$134,279.00 |
| Administrator - NR 16 | \$64,191.00 | \$94,443.00 | \$124,695.00 |
| Chief Inspector – Proposed NR15 | \$59,612.00 | \$84,910.50 | \$110,209.00 |
| Secretary - NR 13 | \$54,001.00 | \$76,921.00 | \$99,842.00 |
| Secretary/Receptionist - NR 13 | \$54,001.00 | \$76,921.00 | \$99,842.00 |
| Chief Inspector – NR-05 | \$36,378.00 | \$51,815.00 | \$67,252.00 |
| Inspection Staff Specific | Hourly Pay | Monthly Stipend | Total Hourly Compensation |
| Deputy Chief - 10 Hour PT | \$34.62 | \$300 | \$41.54 |
| Inspector - 5 Hour PT | \$26.92 | \$300 | \$40.77 |
| Chief Inspector - FT | \$31.42 | \$0 | \$31.42 |