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STATE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
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TO: The Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Michelle Wirzberger, Esq., Deputy Executive Secretary

RE: Senate Bill 17 Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – Related Event Promoter’s Permit

DATE: January 22, 2026

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Hayes and members of the Senate Finance Committee, please be advised that the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City Supports Senate Bill 17.

Senate Bill 17 would reauthorize the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners to issue a permit that would allow an individual, a for-profit organization and/or a nonprofit organization and a liquor licensee to conduct an event associated with the basketball tournament of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA).

Under the law, a Related Event Promoter’s Permit must be obtained if:

- A Baltimore City liquor licensee hires or works with a third-party promoter to sell or provide alcoholic beverages during a CIAA related event;
- The event is one in which tickets are sold to the public, a cover charge is imposed, it is a concert, an entertainment event, a happy hour or a party;
- The third-party promoter, which may be an individual, for-profit organization, or a nonprofit organization, promotes a social event related to the CIAA Basketball Tournament around the time and location of the CIAA Basketball Tournament; and
- At least 75 individuals are anticipated to participate.

If the Related Event Promoter’s Permit is required, it may be granted by the Board under the following conditions:

- The liquor licensee or the third-party promoter submits an application for the permit from the Board along with the \$50 application fee, at least 30 days prior to the event and prior to publicizing, selling tickets for, organizing, operating, producing or staging a related event;
- The applicant receives written consent from a designee of Visit Baltimore;

- All required permits from other Baltimore City agencies are obtained;
- The permit fee is paid in the amount of \$500 (if the maximum capacity of the location is less than 300) or \$1,500 (if the maximum capacity of the location is more than 300);
- Public notice of the related event is provided at the premises of the participating licensee; and
- The event is conducted in accordance with the health and safety requirements specified by the Board.

The Board may impose a fine of at least \$1,000 and up to \$3,000 if they determine that the liquor licensee and/or third-party promoter publicized, sold tickets, charged a cover charge, or otherwise failed to obtain a related event promoter's permit as is required. The bill also mandates that anyone found guilty of violating the requirements contained therein be barred from obtaining a permit for at least one year.

Senate Bill 17 provides a balanced mechanism to support small businesses in their effort to capitalize on the excitement of and interest in the CIAA while also ensuring that the Board is aware of all events falling within the specified criteria. The vetting process allows the Board to confirm that the events are planned to be conducted in a manner that is safe for attendees as well as communities while also providing the insight needed to establish the proper staffing levels to provide appropriate oversight during planned events.

Therefore, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 17.