

## **SB 13**

### **Alcoholic Beverages – License Fee Refund Requirements – Alterations**

#### **1. Opening Statement**

Good afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee. My name is Giuseppe Mellinger, and I am here on behalf of Senator Simonaire as his intern to testify in support of SB 13.

#### **2. Purpose of the Bill**

**Current law refunds the unearned portion of the alcoholic license fee when an individual volunteers for or has been called into the Armed Forces.**

SB 13 expands the eligibility **to include all branches of the Uniformed Services, not just the Armed Forces**, for alcoholic beverage license fee refunds. **This** includes:

- NOAA officers
- USPHS officers

This aligns them with existing refund eligibility for military servicemembers.

#### **3. Why This Matters**

##### **A. NOAA and USPHS are federal uniformed services**

They **have** deployed **to war and no war zones including Afghanistan assisting with:**

- National emergencies
- Public health crises
- Environmental disasters
- Scientific and humanitarian missions

##### **B. Current law excludes them**

Maryland's refund structure recognizes military but does not yet include NOAA and USPHS, despite their similar service obligations. **This bill aligns with last year's *Modernization of Maryland Military Laws Act*.**

##### **C. SB 13 simply corrects this inequity**

The bill ensures:

- Fairness across all uniformed services

- Consistency with federal definitions

#### **4. Impact on Maryland**

- Supports small business owners who serve the nation
- Promotes fairness and uniformity
- Strengthens Maryland's reputation as a service-friendly state

#### **5. Closing**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 13. Thank you for your consideration.