



February 20, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
The Honorable Antonio Hayes  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB 13– Alcoholic Beverages – License Fee Refund Requirements -- Alterations

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and Distinguished Members of the Senate Finance Committee

On behalf of the Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service (COA), I write to request a **FAVORABLE Report** – SB 13– Alcoholic Beverages – License Fee Refund Requirements – Alterations, sponsored by Senator Simonaire. This bill is an administrative alteration of the Licqour License Fee refund, to modify the language from armed forces of the United States, to Uniformed Services. The term, uniformed services was harmonized throughout state code, with the passage of Senator Simonaire’s Modernization of Military Laws Act in 2025, which updated Articles of the Maryland Code through the adoption, integration, and proper use of definitions related to the uniformed services found in 10 U.S. Code §101 and 38 U.S Code §101.

By amending the language, commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) are entitled to the same refund protections as members of the armed forces or state militia, should they volunteer or be called to active duty. Upon surrender of the license, the officer is entitled to a refund of the unearned portion of the license fee.

Commissioned officers of NOAA and Public Health have previously been denied benefits given to other service members because of the language written or more likely omitted in legislation. SB 13, corrects this oversight.

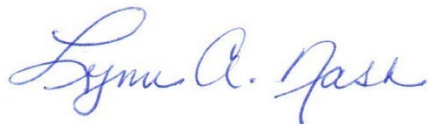
The Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Services requests a **FAVORABLE Report** on SB SB 13– Alcoholic Beverages – License Fee Refund Requirements – Alterations.

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The mission of COA is to protect and enhance the public health and safety of the United States by supporting and advancing the interests of the Commissioned Corps and its officers. COA is the only organization working exclusively on behalf of the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

We thank Senator Simonaire for his continued support of the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN  
CAPTAIN (Retired), United States Public Health Service  
Director, Representing the Commissioned Officers Association  
Maryland Military Coalition  
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