

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

SB0852 - Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages - Barbershop and Beauty Salon License

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Hearing: February 20, 2026

Chair Gile and Members of the Committee:

My name is Steven M. Frid. I am a Davidsonville, Maryland resident, a current Davidsonville Athletic Association and Severn School coach, and the owner of Hammer & Nails - Annapolis, opening soon at Annapolis Harbour Center. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB0852.

SB0852 is a narrow, practical update to an existing Anne Arundel County license. Under this license, barbershops and beauty salons can already provide limited beer and wine for on-premises consumption. SB0852 adds one option: a small, defined liquor pour (1.7 ounces), with the same guardrails - on-premises only, and only during normal business hours and not later than 9:00 p.m. The beverage is provided only to a customer receiving services, or during a fundraising event at the shop.

To be clear: this bill does not turn barbershops into bars. Hammer & Nails is a grooming business - appointments, professional services, and people going home afterward. There is no incentive or ability under this framework to create "bar traffic" because the alcohol is incidental to a service experience and the hours end early. The bill is written with bright-line limits that are easy for responsible operators to follow and easy for regulators to enforce.

Why SB0852 makes sense for Anne Arundel County

- It is a small-business experience issue, not a nightlife issue. Modern grooming concepts are built around customer experience. A single, measured beverage served in a controlled way during a paid service fits that model. SB0852 is intentionally limited so it does not change the character of our communities.
- The rules are straightforward and enforceable. The bill spells out specific amounts (including the 1.7-ounce liquor pour) and keeps the hours capped at 9:00 p.m. Those clear boundaries prevent gray areas and make compliance and enforcement practical.
- Maryland already uses this model. In 2025, Montgomery County enacted a similar change (HB 1095, Ch. 836).

How my shop would operate (conservative and compliance-first)

- Strict identification checks, every time, and no service to anyone underage or visibly intoxicated
- No self-service; beverages provided only by staff
- Measured pours only, consistent with the bill's limits
- No alcohol leaving the premises
- A hard 9:00 p.m. cutoff, even if a service runs long
- Internal policies that go beyond the statute (for example, limiting to one beverage per customer visit)
- Responsible service training as part of our operating standards

SB0852 is modest, specific, and responsible. It supports local business, maintains clear limits and early hours, and follows a framework Maryland has already used successfully. I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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