

Balt City Delegation Letter of Support

Uploaded by: Baltimore City Senate Delegation

Position: FAV

BALTIMORE CITY SENATE DELEGATION

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Legislative District 46



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office

James Senate Office Building

11 Bladen Street, Room 104

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 27, 2026

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

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Committee Members,

On Friday, January 23, 2026, the Baltimore City Senate Delegation voted Favorable on Senate Bill 17, Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Related Event Promoter's Permit.

Pursuant to Senate customs, we ask the Finance Committee to vote favorably on SB 17. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office or my colleagues' offices regarding this legislation. Thank you for your kind consideration of our position regarding this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mary L. Washington".

Senator Mary L. Washington, PH.D

VBTestimonySB171202026 KS.pdf

Uploaded by: Kireem Swinton

Position: FAV

VISIT BALTIMORE

400 E PRATT ST, 10TH FLOOR
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

BALTIMORE.ORG

SB17

January 20, 2026

TO: Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Kireem Swinton, Interim President & CEO, Visit Baltimore

RE: SB17 Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Related Event Promoter's Permit

POSITION: SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Chair Senator Pamela Bidle and Members of the Finance Committee,

Visit Baltimore strongly **supports SB17**, which incorporates a few technical changes to permit process and structure for event promoters during the CIAA tournament week until 2029.

In 2019, this legislation was created to identify when and where CIAA-related but non-sponsored/sanctioned events are happening during the tournament week; ensure that those events are taken into consideration in the city's holistic planning and communication efforts; and create a positive revenue model for the city and the CIAA's contracted financial commitments.

The 2025 CIAA Basketball Tournament welcomed 32,350 total attendees over 22 basketball games during the five-day tournament. We are excited to welcome back students, alumni and basketball fans for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) 2026 Food Lion CIAA Men's & Women's Basketball Tournament, happening February 24-28, 2026. CIAA Tournament participants and spectators spent \$15.1 million at off-site establishments in the local economy, including local restaurants, hotels, retailers, and recreation / entertainment venues, 30% of which was spent in the food & beverage sector, and we look forward to building upon that success.

We respectfully ask for your support of SB17.

Submitted respectfully,



Kireem Swinton
Interim President & CEO

SB 17 BLLC Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Michelle Wirzberger

Position: FAV

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ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY

STATE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
FOR BALTIMORE CITY
200 ST. PAUL PLACE, SUITE 2300
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202-5994
PHONE: (410) 396-4377

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.

SB0017-FIN-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB0017

January 22, 2026

TO: Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 0017 – Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Related Event Promoter's Permit

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 0017.

SB 0017 would reestablish a related event promoter's permit in Baltimore City; authorizing the Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) for Baltimore City to issue a related event promoter's permit to certain applicants under certain circumstances. It incorporates a few technical changes to the permit process and structure for event promoters during the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Basketball Tournament week terminating on June 30, 2029.

In 2019, Chapter 764 initially authorized the BLLC to identify when and where CIAA-related but non-sponsored/sanctioned events are happening during the tournament week in order to create more productive and beneficial cross collaboration. The enactment of Chapter 764 in 2019 and Chapter 391 in 2023 have been highly successful in ensuring that all activity related to the Tournament is appropriately coordinated in order to maximize the impact on both the City and attendees.

In 2025, the CIAA Basketball Tournament welcomed 32,350 total attendees. The City saw participants and spectators spend \$15.1 million at off-site establishments in the local economy, including local restaurants, hotels, retailers, and other recreation/entertainment venues, 30% of which was spent in the food & beverage sector. With the passage of SB0017, this event will continue to be a highly impactful economic driver for the City through 2029.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB0017.

Sponsor Testimony

Uploaded by: Senator Hayes

Position: FAV

Testimony for Senator Hayes in Support of Senate Bill 0017: *Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – Related Event Promoter’s Permit*

January 22, 2026

Dear Baltimore City Senate Delegation,

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Basketball Tournament has continued to be a cultural and economic success for Baltimore City. This bill was created to enhance the oversight and safety of large events tied to the CIAA tournament by ensuring that alcohol service is properly licensed and by establishing accountability for promoters and caterers. This initiative seeks to balance the promotion of tourism with the need for public safety and regulatory compliance.

SB 17 establishes essential application requirements, including the 30 days prior to an event in which a person, or business entity must apply for the permit. It also defines specific terms such as “related event promoter” to include individuals or organizations promoting social events related to CIAA Basketball. SB 17 defines critical aspects such as the \$50 application fee and penalties in the case this law is violated. This bill expires on June 30, 2029, unless renewed.

SB 17 is an urgent measure to ensure that Baltimore City can safely and responsibly host the CIAA Basketball Tournament. This bill provides the structure needed to manage these events effectively while preserving the economic and cultural benefits the CIAA brings to the city.

I urge you to vote favorably on SB0017.

Respectfully,

Senator Antonio L. Hayes

40th Legislative District – MD