

SB0852 Letter of Support.docx.pdf

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DAWN D. GILE
CHAIR



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DELEGATION

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee:

The Anne Arundel County Senators met and voted on February 18th, 2026, to support SB0852, Anne Arundel County – Alcoholic Beverages – Barbershop and Beauty Salon License.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dawn D. Gile".

Dawn D. Gile
Chair, Anne Arundel County Senate Delegation

Sen. Gile Written Testimony_SB852.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Dawn Gile

Position: FAV

DAWN D. GILE
Legislative District 33
Anne Arundel County

Finance Committee

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of SB 852
Anne Arundel County – Alcoholic Beverages –
Barbershop and Beauty Salon License**

Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

SB 852 authorizes a holder of a barbershop and beauty salon license in Anne Arundel County to provide a certain amount of liquor for on-premises consumption in addition to beer and wine. The license authorizes the license holder to provide not more than 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine by the glass, or 1.7 ounces of liquor for on-premises consumption by a barbershop or beauty salon customer.

Background

Existing licenses for barbershops and beauty salons only authorize the provision of beer and wine for on-premises consumption.

Solution

SB 852 resolves this issue.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact for this legislation.

Closing

SB 852 is limited in scope, fiscally disciplined, and consistent with the intent of existing law. A letter of support has been submitted by the Anne Arundel County Senate Delegation.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 852.

SB0852 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Steven Frid

Position: FAV

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,

Steven M. Frid

Owner, Hammer & Nails - Annapolis (Annapolis Harbour Center)

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