

SB927 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Antonio Hayes

Position: FAV

ANTONIO HAYES

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Legislative District 40



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Hayes in Support of Senate Bill 927: *Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Related Event Promoter's Permit*

February 20, 2026

Dear Chairwoman Beidle and Members of the Finance Committee,

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated, has continued to be a source of cultural and economic success for Baltimore City. This bill was created to enhance the oversight and safety of large events tied to Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated, 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 927 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 Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated. SB 927 defines critical aspects such as the \$50 application fee and penalties in the case this law is violated. This bill expires on December 31, 2027, unless renewed.

SB 927 is a measure to ensure that Baltimore City can safely and responsibly host Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated events. This bill provides the structure needed to manage these events effectively while preserving the economic and cultural benefits that Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated brings to the city.

Thus, I urge you to vote favorably on SB927.

Respectfully,

Senator Antonio L. Hayes

40th Legislative District – MD

SB927_BaltCityDelegation Letter

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MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D
CHAIR
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 43



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LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 41
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LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 46
ANTONIO HAYES
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 40
CORY V. MCCRAY
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 45

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
BALTIMORE CITY DELEGATION

February 20, 2026

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

Re: SB 927 - Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Related Event Promoter's Permit

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

On Friday, February 20, 2026, the Baltimore City Senate Delegation voted Favorable on Senate Bill SB 927 - Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Related Event Promoter's Permit.

Pursuant to Senate customs, we ask the Finance Committee to bring SB 927 to a favorable vote. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office or the offices of my colleagues regarding this legislation. Thank you for your kind consideration of our position regarding this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary L. Washington".

Senator Mary L. Washington, PH.D

SB 927 BLLC Support Fraternity Related Permit.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 927 Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages –Related Event Promoter’s Permit

DATE: February 20, 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 927.

Senate Bill 927 would authorize 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, within Baltimore City, that is associated with the Kappa Alpha Psi 2027 Conclave.

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 fraternity- 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 Kappa Alpha Psi 2027 Conclave around the time and location of the Conclave; 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 states that anyone found guilty of violating the requirements contained therein be barred from obtaining a permit for at least one year.

Senate Bill 927 provides a balanced mechanism to support small businesses in their effort to capitalize on the excitement of and interest in the Kappa Alpha Psi 2027 Conclave 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 927.

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Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

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

SB0927

February 20, 2026

TO: Members of the Finance Committee

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

RE: Senate Bill 0927 – 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) 0927.

SB 0927 will establish related event promoter's permit in Baltimore City for the Kappa Alpha Psi 2027 Conclave; authorizes the Board of License Commissioners for Baltimore City to issue a related event promoter's permit to certain applicants under certain circumstances; and requires a holder of a State caterer's license to obtain a certain Class C per diem license from the Board before the holder may act as a participating license holder at a related event.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity is a historically Black fraternity founded in 1911. Through its worldwide prominence, Kappa Alpha Psi has had a global impact on events that affect our local communities and places around the globe. Local chapters of Kappa Alpha Psi participate in community outreach activities to feed the homeless, provide scholarships to young people matriculating to college, serve as mentors to young men, participate in blood drives, and serve as hosts of seminars for public health awareness, to name a few.

Each year, over 260,000 members of Kappa Alpha Psi converge for their grand chapter meeting, their 88th one will be held in Baltimore City and will help infuse the local economy for an entire week. This legislation would allow the third-party promoter, which may be an individual, for-profit organization, or a nonprofit organization promoting a social event related to the Kappa Alpha Psi 2027 Conclave around the time and location of the Conclave to obtain a Related Event Promoter's Permit.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB0927.