

Sponsor Testimony

House Bill 0228 – Restaurant Liquor License

Silver Queen Café is a full-service, family-friendly restaurant located in the Hamilton neighborhood of Baltimore City. Currently, they offer dinner on Wednesday through Saturday nights, and brunch on Saturdays and Sundays. The menu is focused on Maryland foods and traditions, and the restaurant uses local farms and seafood providers as suppliers. The restaurant also partners with local artists, so that they may hang and sell their artwork and specialty products in the restaurant. Silver Queen Cafe features a small area for children, with toys and books, so that all customers can have an enjoyable experience with their families and friends.

To this date, Silver Queen Café has not been able to offer its guests beer, wine, or alcoholic drinks with brunch or dinner service. Because of the restaurant's small size, with seating for 35 customers, Silver Queen Café does not qualify under the current law for a liquor or tavern license. This prevents Silver Queen Café from being able to remain competitive among newer, existing and future planned restaurants and businesses with liquor licenses. Customers have also requested beer, wine, and alcoholic drinks with their meals.

House Bill 0228 helps Silver Queen Café provide beer, wine, alcoholic drinks to their customers.

I am sponsoring this bill because of the success of Silver Queen Café, and a need to help them remain in the neighborhood. A relatively new business, Silver Queen Café is located in the Hamilton neighborhood of Baltimore City. They currently employ 4 full time employees, and 6 part time employees, many within walking or biking distance of the restaurant.

Silver Queen Café has grown in 4 years. Nicole Evanshaw and Jason Daniloski, the owners, have made investments in their business. It is important that we support our small and local businesses by giving them the proper regulatory framework for them to grow and thrive.

Right now, Silver Queen Café is licensed as a restaurant without a tavern license because of the flaw in Maryland law that does not allow them to sell alcohol. House Bill 0228 allows Silver Queen Café the flexibility to serve alcohol to their customers.

I respectfully request the committee move favorably on this bill.



Silver Queen Café

House Bill 0228

Alcoholic Beverages

Position: Support

OBJECTIVE OF LEGISLATION: To grant Silver Queen Café a 7-day tavern license, which would allow it to serve beer, wine, and alcoholic beverages to its customers.

STATE STATUTORY HISTORY: Under current law, Silver Queen Café does not qualify for a tavern license, defined in the laws of Maryland to serve alcoholic beverages to customers. Due to the size of the restaurant, no license is available to them. Because it is illegal to serve alcoholic beverages to their customers, Silver Queen Café cannot meet the needs of their customers, or remain competitive in the neighborhood.

ISSUE: Under Maryland law, Silver Queen Café cannot serve beer, wine, or alcohol to customers.

WHY SHOULD THE LAW BE CHANGED:

- 1) Silver Queen Café would benefit from a 7-day tavern license so that they can serve beer, wine, and alcoholic drinks, along with their meals, to their customers.
- 2) By changing this law, Silver Queen Café will be able to remain a competitive restaurant in its neighborhood.

SILVER QUEEN CAFÉ: Located in Baltimore City, in the Hamilton neighborhood, Silver Queen Café was founded in 2015 by owners Nicole Evanshaw and Jason Daniloski. Both are Maryland natives, Nicole growing up in Silver Spring, and Jason growing up in Carroll County. They bought a home in the neighborhood in 2003, and are currently raising their daughter, and all are active community members.

Silver Queen Café is a family-friendly restaurant, serves a full dinner menu Wednesday through Saturday nights, and brunch service on Saturdays and Sundays, and has wide consumer appeal. The restaurant's

menu is focused on Maryland food and traditions, and partners with local farms and seafood providers. Silver Queen Café also partners with local artists to display and sell their goods.

REVENUE HISTORY:

2015: \$17,300 net sales
2016: \$259,200 net sales
2017: \$284,600 net sales
2018: \$325,500 net sales
2019: \$331,900 net sales

REVENUE AND INVESTMENT:

2020 Gross Revenue will be > \$400,000

EMPLOYMENT:

There are 3 full time employees, and 6 part time employees, and growing. Silver Queen Café hires locally. Many employees are able to bike or walk to work.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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