



Peter Franchot
Comptroller

TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

Support – House Bill 1046 – Alcoholic Beverages - Class MD License

Economic Matters

February 17, 2020

Chairman Davis, Vice Chair Dumais and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in **support** of **House Bill 1046 – Alcoholic Beverages - Class MD License**. I would like to thank Delegate Kerr for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

House Bill 1046 will create a Class MD beer, wine, and liquor license which will allow the license holder to sell alcoholic products produced by licensed Maryland producers. This new class will serve as a further boon to Maryland's ever-important craft alcohol industry. Allowing a licensee to sell exclusively Maryland products supports small businesses, reinvests dollars in Maryland communities, and support and create Maryland jobs, and generate more revenue for our state. What this bill does not do is mandate any directive to the local liquor boards, but instead gives them an option to offer what I believe will be a highly in demand license.

As I travel through every part of this State, I see firsthand the importance of supporting our small businesses, and the excitement about Maryland-based craft alcohol products. House Bill 1046 does just that; and this bill is good for the consumer, good for the industry, and good for the State of Maryland.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for House Bill 1046.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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