



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 17, 2020

House of Delegates – Economic Matters Committee
House Bill 1293 – Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – Class A-7 License – Surveillance
System

Position: Favorable

Chairman and members of the committee:

Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of House Bill 1293.

House Bill 1293 aims to accomplish 4 objectives:

- Extend the date after which Baltimore City may no longer issue Class A-7 License to July 1, 2020
- Repeals a specified authorization of the exchange of a class B-D-7 license for a Class A-7 in the 46th legislative District
- Alters the hours of sale for a Class A-7 from 10am – midnight
- Requires a class A-7 license holder to operate a digital surveillance system on the licensed premises

In 2018, Senator Joan Carter Conway introduced a bill that would enable holders of a B-D-7 license to convert their license to an A-7, which would permit them to operate as a package store and not a tavern. This was intended to accommodate those establishments operating in neighborhoods no longer interested in patronizing a bar. However, since the passage of that bill, the board has not received an application, and only expects 2 in 2020, to exchange a class B-D-7 license for a Class A-7 license. This is mainly due to the bill requiring that A-7 establishments close at 10pm, which would cause a substantial reduction in profit and necessitate laying off employees.

Through our conversations with local businesses, if the closing time could be moved to 12pm, establishments would have a significant interest in making this conversion, and would be happy to include security cameras for additional safety.

I would now like for you to hear from Mario Chang, and Larry sink for more on how this would help our local business owners.