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**HB 1293**

February 17, 2020

**TO:** Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

**FROM:** Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 1293 – Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Class A-7  
Licenses - Surveillance System

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Davis, Vice-Chair Dumais, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) supports House Bill (HB) 1293.

HB 1293 would require all Class A-7 licensees to operate a digital surveillance system on the licensed premises. The surveillance system must include high-definition cameras that provide continuous, 24-hour monitoring and be placed so that the exterior entryway and the interior of each entryway into the establishment is monitored. The video must be retained for not less than 7 days.

The BCA believes HB 1293 is a sensible public safety measure that will protect the lives and property of A-7 license holders, as well as act as a force multiplier in aiding the community and the Baltimore Police Department in deterring crime and identifying those who do break the law. Importantly, HB 1293 has the support of many license holders in Baltimore City who wish to affirmatively partner to make our communities safer. Therefore, this bill is an exciting opportunity to bring businesses and government together through the use of modern technology to make our neighborhoods safer for those live and patronize these establishments. The BCA understands that there may need to be some clarifying amendments to improve the workability of this bill even better than drafted, but the overarching goal this legislation seeks to achieve is one that is a top public safety initiative of the BCA during the 2020 General Assembly legislative session.

For forgoing reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1293.