



LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FOR HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

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February 13, 2020

ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

HB1318 – Harford County – Alcoholic Beverages – Waiver From Place of Worship Restrictions

Scott Baker – Harford County Liquor Control Board

IN SUPPORT

Chair Davis and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

HB1318 would provide additional exceptions for the distance that a licensed establishment must be from a place of worship. These additional exceptions are a brewery and distillery. HB1318 also provides a mechanism for public and government input for those establishments that are not included in the exceptions.

A Harford County municipality is working on revitalizing their downtown by bringing additional and unique businesses to the area. The current law prohibits a licensed establishment within 300 feet of a place of worship unless the business is a restaurant, hotel, club or caterer. The licensed establishments are prohibited even if the members of the place of worship agree that the restriction should be waived. This bill is a good compromise between the interests of the local government, a potential license holder, and members of a place of worship.