



February 14, 2020

Speaker Pro Tempore Sheree L. Sample-Hughes  
House Office Building, Room 311  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Del. Carl L. Anderton, Jr.  
House Office Building, Room 310  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Del. Christopher T. Adams  
House Office Building, Room 426  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Del. Wayne A. Hartman  
House Office Building, Room 308  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Del. Charles J. Otto  
House Office Building, Room 321  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Del. John F. (Johnny) Mautz IV  
House Office Building, Room 424  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: HB1319 – City of Salisbury – Alcoholic Beverages – Local Regulation and Control**

Dear Delegates;

On behalf of the nearly 100 members of the Greater Salisbury Committee, I write today in support of HB 1319, which will establish a local Board of Liquor Licensing for the City of Salisbury.

Earlier this week, during the Monthly Membership Meeting of GSC, Mayor Jake Day discussed, in detail, HB 1319, and why the City of Salisbury is requesting this legislation. He laid out in full the steps the City of Salisbury has taken over the last few years to consolidate permitting in areas like planning, zoning, business licensing and permitting and fire code enforcement. The establishing of a Board of Liquor Licensing is a continuation of these actions. And, we believe, it is a next logical step for the City of Salisbury.

In making his case to GSC, Mayor Day shared that fully 73% of alcohol-permitted establishments that exist in Wicomico County operate inside the City of Salisbury's corporate limits. He also stressed, in the strongest possible terms, that this legislation does not in any way affect the current Wicomico County Liquor Control Board, which is governed by the State of Maryland and overseen by the Wicomico County government. The Liquor Control Board is the Wicomico County liquor dispensary system, and



HB 1319 specifically supports keeping that system as is:

“The Liquor Control Board for Wicomico County has jurisdiction and may operate in the City in accordance with the provisions of Title 32, Subtitle 3 of this article.”

During Mayor Day’s talk at GSC, questions were asked by GSC members about the proposed legislation. Summing up the sentiment of the room that day was this question, asked by a longtime GSC member and very successful entrepreneur – who is most definitely a limited government kind of person: “How could anyone oppose this?”

Based on the proven effectiveness of the City of Salisbury in consolidating and managing the permitting process; our concern that the current County Liquor Licensing process can seem to get, on occasion, mired in the politics of things (as we saw just ten days prior to the 2019 National Folk Festival); the fact that there appear to be no downsides to the local business community in or outside the City of Salisbury corporate limits; and that there will be no impact on the current liquor dispensary system in Wicomico County, the Greater Salisbury Committee supports HB 1319.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Dunn  
President/CEO  
Greater Salisbury Committee

*200 W. Main St. Salisbury, MD 21801  
410-742-5161  
[www.greatersalisbury.org](http://www.greatersalisbury.org)*