



**House Economic Matters Committee
February 19, 2021**

**House Bill 12
Alcoholic Beverages - Sale or Delivery for Off-Premises Consumption**

Letter of Information

NCADD-Maryland offers this letter of information on *House Bill 12 - Alcoholic Beverages - Sale or Delivery for Off-Premises Consumption*. Reports from around the country indicate that not only is alcohol consumption by adults increasing during the COVID-19 pandemic, underage drinking is also on the rise. There is ample evidence that the anxiety, depression, and isolation caused by the pandemic is leading to more alcohol and drug use¹.

There are also indications people under the age of 21 are increasing able to access alcohol by ordering online and having alcohol delivered to their doors. A new investigation by the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) department of the state of California found that on-demand alcohol delivery apps harm youth by delivering alcohol to minors. The problem appears to be growing and is a serious concern due to the dangers associated with under-age alcohol consumption.²

NCADD-Maryland believes that as the State changes policies around the delivery of alcohol, requirements for ensuring proper identification is provided at the point of sale and at the point of delivery should be stringent. Whether it is the restaurant itself making the delivery, or a food delivery service, those selling and delivering alcohol must ensure that young people under the age of 21 do not have increased access.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.

¹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0091743521000062?dgcid=coauthor>

² <https://movendi.ngo/news/2020/06/16/california-usa-on-demand-alcohol-delivery-apps-harm-youth/>