



Testimony offered on behalf of:
THE GARRETT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FAVORABLE:
HB 12 – Alcoholic Beverages - Sale or Delivery for Off-Premises Consumption

**Economic Matters Committee
February 19, 2021**

On behalf of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, representing 600 member organizations in Western Maryland, I write to express our opposition to **HB 12 – Alcoholic Beverages - Sale or Delivery for Off-Premises Consumption.**

This legislation would codify an Executive Order that were issued during the pandemic to assist small businesses who were partially mandated to close. Licensed restaurants, bars and taverns were provided the opportunity to offer sale and delivery of alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption to help compensate for the lost revenues due to the mandatory closures.

Restaurants, bars and taverns are some of the hardest hit by the pandemic. Many adjusted their business models to take advantage of this opportunity. It turned out to be a saving grace for numerous businesses that would have otherwise suffered devastating revenue losses.

The pandemic is far from over and the long-term effects on our economy and businesses remains to be seen. As the Executive Order worked as intended and provided much needed relief for many businesses, the Legislature should codify into law the allowance of sale and delivery of alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption.

The Chamber respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE committee report on HB 12.**

Sincerely,

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President & CEO

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