

HB 632

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Board of License Commissioners

Liquor Control Board of Garrett County

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February 16, 2021

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chairman
Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HOUSE BILL 632 - GARRETT COUNTY
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ACT OF 2021

Dear Chairman Davis:

The Board of License Commissioners / Liquor Control Board requested the Garrett County Delegation to introduce House Bill 632. The legislative request relates to Title 21 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article specific to Garrett County. The first request is to repeal certain provisions as they relate to the issuance of a one-time fee to new non-profit applicants. The second request is an amendment to the types of alcoholic beverages a qualifying non-profit organization can purchase.

The repealing of the one-time issuing fee charge is a housekeeping amendment. AB § 21-1406 specifically exempts a nonprofit license holder from paying an issuing fee for a new license. When the legislation was written for the Garrett County Art Establishment License in 2018, there was an oversight in the drafting of AB § 21-1001. There should not have been a section requiring the one-time issuing fee. In addition, it is noted that AB § 21-904 also needs an amendment to repeal the one-time issuing fee requirement for a Class C BWL License. This most likely was an oversight during the code revision.

The request to amend AB § 21-1312 will authorize a qualifying Class C Per Diem licensee to also purchase liquor from a wholesaler. The current statute allows for the purchase of beer, wine, and liquor from a retailer but only beer and wine from a wholesaler. The request is made so that a qualifying license holder can purchase liquor directly from a Maryland wholesaler.

The Board of License Commissioners / Liquor Control Board ask for your favorable consideration of House Bill 632 and thank you for the support you may give this legislative issue.

Sincerely,

Deborah R. Owston

Deborah R. Owston
Administrator of the Board of License Commissioners

cc: Delegate Wendell Beitzel
Senator George Edwards