



The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

SB 426 - 46th District - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses

Testimony of Senate President Bill Ferguson

On March 5, 2021

Before the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

I respectfully urge my colleagues to support Senate Bill 426, the 46th District Delegation's annual local liquor bill.

As drafted, SB426 has two main components:

1. Page 5, Lines 9-14: Allows for Old Line Distillery to convert their current 6-day Class D license into a 7-day Class D license.
 - Right now, Old Line Distillery cannot operate their cocktail bar on Sundays, which deprives them of clientele and critical income as many of their visitors on the weekend come from surrounding counties or the broader Mid-Atlantic region.
 - As with all local breweries, wineries and distilleries, a large portion of Old Line's revenue comes from sales at the distillery. This simple adjustment will allow Old Line to increase its economic ceiling with minimal change to its business model and impact on the surrounding area.
2. Page 6, Lines 25-28: Permits the Liquor Board to issue a Class D license to an establishment located in the 1200 block of South Haven Street so long as a memorandum of understanding (MOU) is executed with the Brewer's Hill Neighbors community organization. This license is for a new Bark Social dog park and beer garden that is coming to that development.

Amendment 833021/1 adds a few additional elements:

Amendment #1 is technical in nature.

Amendment #2 does three things.

1. First, it creates a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license for DiPasquale's as they expand to a new location in Brewers Hill. For the Board to issue the license, DiPasquale's will need to have:
 - Seating for 75 individuals;
 - A minimum capital investment of \$700,000;
 - Average daily receipts for the sale of food that are at least 65% of total daily receipts;

and

- A Memorandum of Understanding with Brewer's Hill Neighbors.
2. Second, it strips language put into the code last year to allow DiPasquale's to transfer their current license to another location in Highlandtown.
 3. Third, it removes a sunset provision put into the code when the 2019 District 46 local liquor bill was passed. The sunset provision applies to Sagamore Distillery's cocktail bar. All parties involved in the 2019 legislation are in favor of removing the current sunset.

As reflected in testimony submitted to the Committee, the local community is supportive of these new licenses and adjustments to the code in its current form. The bill and amendment were both unanimously approved by the Baltimore City Senate Delegation last month.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 426 and I urge the Committee to report the bill and amendment favorably.