

Testimony in support of:

SB424: A bill with the purpose of repealing a prohibition on the Board of License Commissioners for Baltimore County from issuing a Class D beer, wine, and liquor license for use by a drugstore in Baltimore County

Submitted by: George Fotis
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My name is George Fotis, I own both Drug City Pharmacy and The Fountain which operate under the same roof. And I'd like to voice my full support for SB424 a Bill repealing the prohibition against a drugstore owning a D license in order to make running both of these businesses more efficient.

Oddly, this prohibition is specific only to a D license only. You can have a liquor store or a restaurant owned by a drugstore just not a Class D license. We believe it's a remnant from a previous law that was never properly removed. I should state that no other type of business has this prohibition. You could be a pet store, florist or a dentist office and not be prohibited from obtaining a D License. In these cases the Baltimore County Liquor board would determine the appropriateness of granting a license. Let me also mention that this change in no way would allow chain or corporate stores to open up since this working only refers to independently owned stores.

My current arrangement has resulted in much duplication. From 2 tax returns and payrolls to 2 insurance policies. I'm hopeful we can remove this prohibition to allow me to run the business more efficiently and streamlined. Again, I do believe that at this point there is no known rationale for this drugstore prohibition today and hope you all consider its removal.

I should also mention that this Bill has the full support of the Baltimore County Liquor and Beverage Association, we have the full support of our community and to my knowledge there are no businesses or constituents that have voiced opposition to this change. I urge you all to support SB424

Thank you and I appreciate your time



George Fotis
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