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Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 5, 2021

The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Senate Bill 715 Wicomico County- Alcoholic Beverages-Repeal of Food Sales Requirement for
Class B (Golf Course) License
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Thank you Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee for the opportunity to respectfully ask for your support of **Senate Bill 715 Wicomico County – Alcoholic Beverages – Repeal of Food Sales Requirement for Class B (Golf Course) License**. Senator Addie Eckardt and I have sponsored Senate Bill 715 as the Senators representing Wicomico County. This bill simply repeals the requirement that a certain golf course have average daily receipts from the sale of food that exceed the average daily receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages to be issued a certain Class B beer, wine, and liquor license by the Board of License Commissioners for Wicomico County. Additionally, this bill would extend alcohol sales in Wicomico County to holders of Class A beer, wine, and liquor licenses to allow sale on Sundays.

This is a local request with support of the Wicomico County Council. Senate Bill 715 would allow guests to enjoy an alcoholic beverage before, after or during a round of golf without eating an entire meal at the golf course as many golfers tend to enjoy a beverage and a snack but forego a full meal at the golf club. As mentioned by the Board of License Commissioners in its letter dated December 10, 2020, most golf courses are not a destination for dining as dining is secondary to playing a round of golf.

I also have included an amendment in the bill that extends the Liquor Control Board from six to seven days allowing for alcohol sales on Sundays to a holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license. This would level the playing field for private businesses and provide statewide consistency as all of the surrounding Maryland counties have Sunday sales as well as Delaware, which borders Wicomico County.

Given COVID-19 and the effects it has had on all businesses in Maryland, I urge the committee to move favorable on these local bills to allow golf courses in Wicomico County to offer alcoholic beverages to golfers who do not wish to have a sit down meal and to extend the alcohol sale period from six to seven days in Wicomico County. I respectfully ask my colleagues on the Senate Educational, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee for a favorable report of Senate Bill 715.

Thank you for your kind consideration.