

GCCC Testimony SB 451 GC Alcoholic Bev Act 3-5-21.

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

FAVORABLE:
SB 451 – Garrett County – Alcoholic Beverages Act of 2021

Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
March 5, 2021

On behalf of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, representing 600 member organizations in Western Maryland, I write to express our support of SB 451 – Garrett County – Alcoholic Beverages Act of 2021.

This legislation cleans up language in the existing law and updates the law for existing and future breweries, distilleries and wineries in Garrett County. Garrett County is currently home to one winery and one cidery and the changes are necessary to accommodate the allowance for future growth of these businesses as well as those that may be developed here.

This is as much an economic development bill as it is an alcoholic beverages bill. As this bill is at the request of the Garrett County Liquor Control Board, we are confident in their due diligence for their recommended changes to the law.

The Chamber respectfully requests a FAVORABLE committee report on SB 451.

Sincerely,

Nicole Christian, SON, CCE

President & CEO

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SB 0451 Garrett County Alcoholic Beverages Act of

Uploaded by: Owston, Deborah

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SB 0451

MARCH 5, 2021 @ 2:00 PM

Board of License Commissioners

Liquor Control Board of Garrett County

Garrett County Government Administrative Office Building
203 South Fourth Street, Room 208
Oakland, Maryland 21550
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Deborah R. Owston
Administrator to the Board

Michael J. Fratz
McHenry, Maryland 21541

David L. Moe
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Lisa M. Herman
Friendsville, Maryland 21531

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chairman
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SENATE BILL 0451 - GARRETT COUNTY
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ACT OF 2021

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

The Board of License Commissioners / Liquor Control Board requested the Garrett County Delegation to introduce Senate Bill 0451. 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 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 Senate Bill 0451 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