



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 241

DATE: February 21, 2022

SPONSOR: Montgomery County Delegation

ASSIGNED TO: Economic Matters

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POSITION: Support

Montgomery County – Damascus – Alcoholic Beverages – Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor License Referendum MC 12-22

House Bill 241 authorizes the Board of License Commissioners for Montgomery County (BLC) to issue a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license in Damascus (12th election district). If enacted, the law will only go into effect if approved by a majority of voters in Damascus at the November 2022 general election. Under current law, the only licenses that the Board can issue in Damascus are: (1) a 7-day Class C beer, wine, and liquor license to a volunteer fire department for on-premises consumption and (2) a Class H beer and wine license that allows the holder to sell beer and wine at a restaurant or hotel for on-premises consumption. A Class B beer, wine and liquor license allows a license holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor at retail for on-premises consumption. This license is typically held by restaurants and requires the holder to attest annually that at least 40 percent of the gross receipts are from the sale of food and alcoholic beverages.

In 2012, the General Assembly passed [House Bill 690](#) authorizing the Board to issue Class H beer and wine licenses in Damascus. Before the law could go into effect, Section 2 of House Bill 690 required that the law be submitted to a referendum of the qualified voters of Damascus at the general election held in November 2012. A majority of the votes cast were in favor of House Bill 690 and the law became effective on the 30th day following the official canvass of votes for the referendum. House Bill 241 contains a similar provision which requires a majority of the voters in Damascus to approve the law at the November 2022 general election before it can go into effect.

Montgomery County supports House Bill 241 and respectfully requests a favorable Committee report.