



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
ST. MARY'S COUNTY DELEGATION

Delegate C.T Wilson
Chairman
House Economic Matters Committee
Annapolis, MD

Dear Chairman Wilson and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to bring before you HB474- St. Mary's County - Leonardtown - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Place of Worship Distance Restriction.

The purpose of the bill is to correct the archaic law that disallows a liquor license within 300 feet of a church.

In 2004, the law was changed to allow a class B license within the 300 foot limit. Over the past several years, the Liquor Board has inadvertently issued several other types of licenses, believing that they were covered under the 2004 change in law. It was discovered recently by the liquor board that the 2004 language only encompassed Class B and not the other classes of licenses. Class A (Package Goods), Class AE (Arts and Entertainment), Class C (Clubs), Class D (Tavern on/off sales) and Class S (Beauty Salon). The AE and S licenses were just passed in recent years, as you know.

The Town of Leonardtown is at risk of losing several establishments, which would greatly impact the economics of the town. They have asked that we correct the law, and allow the issuance of liquor licenses within 300 feet of a church. The legislation is necessary to allow Leonardtown to continue to grow and thrive as the County's only municipality.

This bill was requested by the St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners, and is supported unanimously by the St. Mary's County Delegation.

We request that the committee pass the bill out of Committee Favorably.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Morgan".

Matt Morgan
Chair
St. Mary's County Delegation

