

February 17, 2022

The Honorable C.T. Wilson, Chairman  
Economic Matters Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: HB 667 Alcoholic Beverages - Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor Licenses - Restaurants  
Request for a Favorable Report**

Dear Chairman Wilson and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

This legislation is intended to repeal a requirement that a restaurant applying for the above license must be in full-time operation for 6 months prior to submitting the application.

The current law in Harford County is the only one of its kind in Maryland and places an undue hardship on restaurants struggling in these uncertain economic times.

I am mindful of the minor fiscal impact this proposed legislation may inflict on the operating budget of the Harford County liquor control board, however, this is an annual license subject to board approval, thus there is no guarantee of future revenue.

Over the years we have made substantial changes to our liquor laws in Harford County. I see this issue as one that remains incongruent. Our current fee schedule establishes an annual rate of \$3,000 with a 250 thousand dollar investment in kitchen upgrades. The fee after a 6 month waiting period is 2,645 with no capital investment required. The current fee structure is akin to a pay-for-play scheme and seems unfair to both parties.

I am pleased to have a letter of support from the Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace and the Harford County Delegation. I am offering a sponsor amendment to reflect the unanimous support of my Delegation.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB667.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Lisanti