



Mission: To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy **Vision:** Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities

HB 372 Baltimore City – Board of License Commissioners – Licensee Hours of Operation

Hearing Date: 2/21/22

Committee: Economic Matters

Position: Favorable

Thank you, Chairman Wilson, Vice-chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee for holding this hearing on HB 372, an emergency bill reducing the hours of sales for certain establishments in an approximately two block area in Baltimore City. The Maryland Public Health Association’s Alcohol & Tobacco Network supports the effort being made through this bill.

This strategy of decreasing hours of sales is not only supported by the scientific literature,¹ but also supported by legislation introduced by Senator Cory McCray and passed in 2020 to reduce the hours of sales in a targeted high crime area from 20 hours per day to 13. They initially saw a 50% reduction in homicides and 200% decrease in violent crime. Read here: <https://afro.com/commentary-want-to-reduce-crime-challenge-the-status-quo/>

Given the city’s success in using a targeted approach to reducing violent crime through a reduction in hours of sales and alignment with the scientific literature, we ask the committee for a favorable report on HB 372.

The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 145-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing the health disparities that plague our state and our nation.

¹ Sherk A et al. Alcohol consumption and the physical availability of take-away alcohol: Systematic reviews and meta-analyses of the days and hours of sale and outlet density. *JSAD*. 2018;79(1): 58-67.