

# **HB667\_City Of Havre de Grace\_Favorable (2).pdf**

Uploaded by: Adam Rybczynski

Position: FAV



# CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**William T. Martin**

April 1, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: FAVORABLE - HB 667 – Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor Licenses - Restaurants**

Chairman Pinsky and the honorable members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

**Harford County is the ONLY jurisdiction in the State of Maryland, which requires an applicant for a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license to wait 6 months before they are eligible to serve liquor.**

**This unnecessary waiting period increases the difficulty of attracting new restaurants to Harford County and ultimately puts the county at a competitive disadvantage with neighboring counties.**

On February 7, 2022, the Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace voted to take a favorable position on House Bill 667. HB 667 is a common-sense pro-business bill that, if passed, would repeal the requirement that a restaurant applying for a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license in Harford County must have been in full-time operation for the 6 months prior to filing the application.

The City of Havre de Grace is a historic waterfront community located in Harford County. The current city administration has made significant strategic investments and policy decisions in the areas of tourism and economic development, which has allowed Havre de Grace to gain recognition as a 21-century tourist destination. Part of this strategy includes recruiting new restaurants, many of whom are hesitant to locate in our jurisdiction due to the unnecessary waiting period that HB 667 will eliminate.

Restaurants face uncontrollable, unpredictable, and volatile markets and economic circumstances, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the concurrent economic crises. In the

current unpredictable times, lawmakers should eliminate unnecessary laws that can impede a business's ability to open, grow and expand.

The City of Havre de Grace respectfully requests the committee give HB 667 a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William T. Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William T. Martin  
Mayor, City of Havre de Grace

# **HB667 Letter in Opposition (HCLCB).pdf**

Uploaded by: Judi Powell

Position: UNF



**Liquor Control Board for Harford County, Maryland**

16 North Main Street  
Bel Air, Maryland 21014-3780  
410-638-3028 • Fax 410-638-4970  
www.hclcb.org



March 30, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Honorable J.B. Jennings  
Honorable Jason C. Gallion  
Honorable Robert G. Cassilly  
James Senate Office Building, Room 401  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: House Bill 667- Harford County-Alcoholic Beverages  
Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor Licenses - Restaurants**

Dear Senators:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Harford County Liquor Control Board in opposition to House Bill 667 regarding Class B alcoholic beverage licenses in Harford County.

As you may know, HB 667 proposes an elimination of the 6-month waiting period to obtain a Class B alcoholic beverage license.

In addition to the standard Class B license, there is also a Class BNR alcoholic beverage license. If this bill were to be passed, the BNR License would essentially become obsolete and the County's (and this Board's) concerns regarding a showing of commitment to food, and not just alcohol, would be moot. (The \$250,000 capital investment for a BNR License was intended as a substitute for the 6-month waiting period to show commitment to food service over alcohol service, something that Harford County has previously wanted to protect in its communities.)

Further, if this legislation is passed, the current BNR license holders would likely apply for a change in their Class of license to a Class B license. The current Class-B-BWL-On Sale Only (Restaurant) 7-day license fee is \$2,145. The current license fee for a Class BNR is \$3,000. There are currently 34 BNR licenses issued in Harford County. If all of those licenses were converted to Class B-BWL-On Sale Only licenses, this Board would lose \$29,070 in annual revenue which would create a catastrophic ripple effect in this Board's budget and operations.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter A. Tilley, III".

Walter A. Tilley, III  
Chairman  
Liquor Control Board for Harford County