



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

SB 771 Baltimore City – 46th District – Alcoholic Beverages Licenses

Hearing Date: 3/4/22

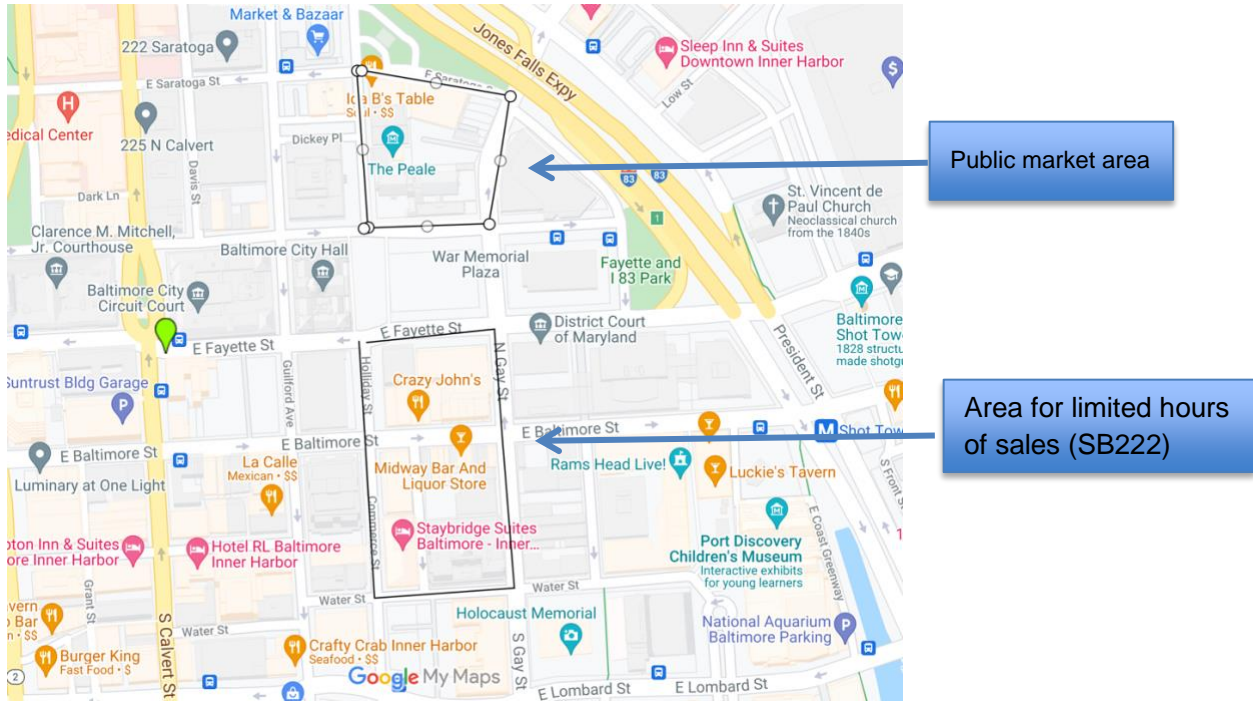
Committee: EHEA

Position: Informational

Thank you, Chairman Pinsky, Vice-chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee for holding this hearing on SB 771, a bill which, in part, extends hours of service at public markets from 30 minutes to two hours, depending on the day. The Maryland Public Health Association’s Alcohol, Tobacco & Cannabis Network has a consideration in regards to this bill.

We are concerned that SB 771 appears to increase the hours of sales for the public market area just one block above another area that is being targeted for a reduction in sales hours (HB 372). We understand and support SB 222, an emergency bill to limit hours of sales to Class A, B-D-7, and adult entertainment venues in an approximately two block area in downtown Baltimore. This strategy of decreasing hours of sales is not only supported by the scientific literature, 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 reducing violent crime through a reduction in hours of sales and seeing the submission of another bill similar to this, we ask the committee to consider these things when making a determination on increasing hours of sales in public markets in SB 771, one of which is in an area that is only one block away (see figure below).



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.