



*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

**SB 771 - Baltimore City - 46th District - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses**  
Testimony of Senate President Bill Ferguson  
On March 4, 2022  
Before the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

I respectfully urge the committee to support Senate Bill 771, the 46th District Delegation's annual local liquor bill.

**This year, SB 771 has three main components:**

1. Page 2, Lines 20-25: Makes adjustments to the operating hours for vendors holding a liquor license within Cross Street Market, and lowers the annual license fee from \$7,500 to \$6,000 per year. These changes are supported by the surrounding local neighborhood associations.
2. Page 3, Lines 24-26 and Page 4, Lines 8-14: Allows for Ovenbird Bakery to transfer a liquor license to its new facility that is within 300 feet of a school, provided there is a memorandum of understanding from the Highlandtown Community Association.
  - A similar provision was approved by this body in 2020 when we believed DiPasquale's would be taking over the same space at 3925 Gough Street, but was struck in 2021 to avoid unintended consequences.
  - More information on Ovenbird Bakery's expansion [can be found through The Baltimore Sun here.](#)
3. Page 4, Line 20: Extends the sunset for the license of Big Jim's Deli in Federal Hill. Again, the measure is supported by the Federal Hill Neighborhood Association.

**Amendments:**

Two amendments were adopted in the Baltimore City Delegation as described below.

- First, there is an amendment to extend the timeframe in which the license holder at 1173 W. Hamburg Street, The Spot, in Pigtown can activate that license.
  - The owner of the license purchased the building in 2019 and then faced immense hardship due to COVID-19 including familial emergencies and delays in renovations and permitting, but did not realize they could apply for a hardship extension with the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners.

- The Citizens of Pigtown community association has provided a letter of support for this legislative extension.
  
- Second, there is an amendment to increase the possible square footage for market licenses from 20% to 25%. This provision provides needed flexibility for Cross Street Market in Federal Hill as the footprint of the market has been fully built out and businesses fill stalls.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 771 and I urge the committee to report the bill favorably as amended.