



Liquor Control Board for Harford County, Maryland

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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,

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