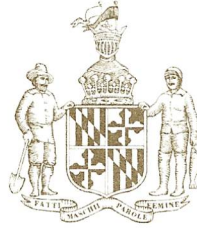


MARY BETH CAROZZA  
*Legislative District 38*  
Somerset, Wicomico,  
and Worcester Counties

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 4, 2022

The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
SB 495 Somerset County - Alcoholic Beverages - Abolishment of Liquor Control Board and  
Dispensary System  
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Thank you Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee for the opportunity to respectfully ask for your support of **Senate Bill SB 495 Somerset County - Alcoholic Beverages - Abolishment of Liquor Control Board and Dispensary System**. This legislation was requested by the Somerset County Commissioners.

The bill would allow the sale of liquor by private entities and give the Liquor Licensing Board authority to issue these licenses, set the annual distributor fee to \$5,000, repeal the Liquor Control Board, and establish a Class A Beer, Wine, and Liquor License.

Somerset County is one of three counties including Wicomico and Montgomery that does not allow for sale of liquor by private entities. Under SB 495, the Somerset County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue a Class A BWL license, and license holders would be able to sell beer, wine, and liquor at retail to consumers, which currently is prohibited.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 495, a priority local bill for Somerset County. Thank you for your kind consideration.

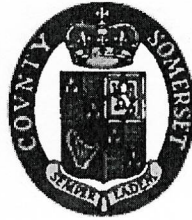
**SOMERSET COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING OFFICE**

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March 1, 2022

Education, Health and Environment Affairs Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chair and committee members. For the record, my name is Gene Adkins, and I am the Finance Director for Somerset County. I am representing the County Commissioners here today, who are strongly in favor of passing SB 495, that will abolish the Somerset County Liquor Control Board and Dispensary System and establish a new \$5,000 annual fee, primarily for alcohol retail distributors.

There are a lot of inventory and cash control issues involved in owning a liquor control board and dispensary system. Somerset County is one of the few remaining liquor control boards in the State. The Board of Commissioners strongly feels the County should not be in the alcohol retail business any longer. The net fiscal effect to the County over a combined 5-year period shows a minimal net effect, and will result in a reduction of expenses and also results in a new class A liquor license, which results in new revenue to the County. The Somerset County Commissioners respectfully request a favorable report and final passage of SB 495.

I am also here today to answer any questions on the calculations for the additional projected revenue and expenses to Somerset County, resulting from this bill.