



Peter Franchot  
*Comptroller*

## TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

### Support – Senate Bill 698 - Alcoholic Beverages - Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing and Promotion

*Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee*

*March 4, 2022*

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in support of **Senate Bill 698 – Alcoholic Beverages - Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing and Promotion**. I would like to thank Senator Zucker for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Committee for providing the opportunity for my testimony to be heard.

Senate Bill 698 establishes the Advisory Commission on Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing (ACMAM) and the Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing Promotion Fund (MAMPF). The fund would utilize a portion of certain alcohol tax revenues to help promote locally-produced products. Grants from the fund would be made available to government and nonprofit organizations to promote Maryland’s breweries, wineries, and distilleries.

Once passed, this legislation will allocate funds for competitive grants for agriculture, research, and tourism, positively impacting Maryland farmers, maltsters, brewers, vintners, distillers and fermentation science programs like that at the University of Maryland. Senate Bill 698 will act as a significant catalyst to put Maryland’s alcohol producers on par with neighbors in Pennsylvania, Virginia and New York – where similar programs are already in place - propelling our local economies forward and stimulating job creation.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a favorable report for Senate Bill 698. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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