

**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.