

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation,
and Environment



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 618

**Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – Sales in Grocery Stores and Supermarkets –
Referendum**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

I write to urge you to **support** Senate Bill 618. Allowing the purchase of beer and wine in Baltimore City's retail food stores provides access in more than one way.

Under Senate Bill 618, the Board of License Commissioners for Baltimore City is granted authorization to issue Class A beer and light wine licenses to grocery stores, chain stores, supermarkets, and/or discount houses. The bill also provides that the Act be submitted to referendum of Baltimore City's voters.

If successful, resulting revenue from alcohol sales will not only yield economic benefits, but a leveraging opportunity to address critical issues—like food scarcity within Baltimore's neighborhoods. Permitting sales would produce pathways for supermarkets in tougher neighborhoods to provide fresher and healthier choices, increasing food access and restoring our communities.

If enacted, Senate Bill 618 will take effect on July 1, 2022, and will require that certain practices are adopted in accordance with the change in law.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 618.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray

State Senator, 45th District