

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

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 314
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3645 · 301-858-3645
800-492-7122 Ext. 3645
Fax 410-841-3006 · 301-858-3006
MaryBeth.Carozza@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 4, 2022

The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
SB 351 Worcester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class L License
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 351 Worcester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class L License**. This legislation has been requested by the Worcester County Commissioners and the Worcester County Office of Tourism.

This bill establishes the Class L beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license in Worcester County and authorizes the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners to issue the license to the holder of a manufacturer's license. The license authorizes the holder, for on-premises consumption, to sell only Maryland made beer, wine, and liquor produced by the holder or another holder of a manufacturer's license, and provide a sample of the beer, wine or liquor at no cost.

SB 351 would allow existing small breweries, wineries and distilleries to offer only Maryland made products. This diversity of Maryland products could be especially helpful to businesses like Windmill Creek as they experience a grape shortage affecting their own production.

It's important to note that the Maryland General Assembly approved a Class L license to Alleghany County in 2019. This is settled law, not a new request. The experience in Alleghany County has been a positive one without adverse impacts to other local businesses. SB 351 simply would allow this same opportunity to Worcester County as a couple of local holders of manufacturer's licenses have expressed an interest in applying for the Class L license.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 351, a priority local bill that would give a limited number of small businesses more options in offering Maryland products on their own premises.



OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Worcester County

GOVERNMENT CENTER
ONE WEST MARKET STREET • ROOM 1103

SNOW HILL, MARYLAND

21863-1195

March 3, 2022

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COUNTY ATTORNEY

Senator Mary Beth Carozza
314 James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

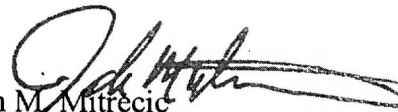
RE: Support for SB 351/HB 1123 – Worcester County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class L License

Dear Senator Carozza,

On behalf of the Worcester County Commissioners, I would like to express our full support for SB 351/HB 1123 – Worcester County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class L License, granting small alcohol manufacturers the ability to obtain a Class L beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license from the Worcester County Liquor Board. This would allow our local businesses to offer their own products alongside other manufacturer's products for sale. For example, this would allow local wineries to be able to diversify their products to provide samples and sell spirits.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Joseph M. Mitrećić
President, Worcester County Commissioners