



**Mission:** To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy **Vision:** Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities

---

**SB 222 Baltimore City – Board of License Commissioners – Licensee Hours of Operation**

**Hearing Date: 3/4/22**

**Committee: EHEA**

**Position: Favorable**

Thank you, Chairman Pinsky, Vice-chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee for holding this hearing on SB 222, an emergency bill reducing the hours of sales for certain establishments in an approximately two block area in Baltimore City. The Maryland Public Health Association’s Alcohol, Tobacco & Cannabis Network supports the effort being made through this bill.

This strategy of decreasing hours of sales is not only supported by the scientific literature,<sup>1</sup> but also supported by legislation introduced by Senator Cory McCray and passed in 2020 to reduce the hours of sales in a targeted high crime area from 20 hours per day to 13. They initially saw a 50% reduction in homicides and 200% decrease in violent crime. Read here: <https://afro.com/commentary-want-to-reduce-crime-challenge-the-status-quo/>

Given the city’s success in using a targeted approach to reducing violent crime through a reduction in hours of sales and alignment with the scientific literature, we ask the committee for a favorable report on SB 222.

*The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 145-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing the health disparities that plague our state and our nation.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Sherk A et al. Alcohol consumption and the physical availability of take-away alcohol: Systematic reviews and meta-analyses of the days and hours of sale and outlet density. *JSAD*. 2018;79(1): 58-67.