

C Knopp Testimony SB495.pdf

Uploaded by: Cindy Knopp

Position: FAV

Cynthia Knopp
Board Member
Somerset County Liquor Board
Princess Anne, MD

March 3, 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:

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chair and committee members. My name is Cynthia Knopp and I am one of 3 Liquor Control Board members. We all have full time employment outside of the dispensaries and each one of us run very successful businesses.

From day one of our commission to the Liquor Control Board, we were met with problems maintaining sound inventory and cash control systems at our three stores.

While we were successful in implementing new procedures such as bulk buying resulting in increased revenues for the County, buying a new point of service system to maintain better records and reporting and implementing a wonderful surveillance system, we could never really solve the inventory and cash control issues.

We agree with the County Commissioners position to disband the Somerset County Liquor Control Board and Dispensaries and we fully support the passage of SB 495.

PDF Testimony for SB 495.pdf

Uploaded by: Eugene (Gene) Adkins

Position: FAV

**SOMERSET COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING OFFICE**

11916 SOMERSET AVENUE, ROOMS 204-208
PRINCESS ANNE, MARYLAND 21853
TELEPHONE 410-651-0044, FAX 410-651-4589

COMMISSIONERS

CRAIG N. MATHIES, SR., PRESIDENT
CHARLES LAIRD, VICE-PRESIDENT
REX SIMPKINS
ELDON WILLING
RANDY LAIRD

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK,
RALPH D. TAYLOR
COUNTY ATTORNEY, KIRK G. SIMPKINS



Finance Director-Gene Adkins
gadkins@somersetmd.us

Finance & Accounting Officer-Vicki Miller
vmiller@somersetmd.us

Finance & Accounting Staff-Traci Martin,
Accountant-Kira Evans

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.

SB495 Abolish Somerset Liquor Control Board.pdf

Uploaded by: Eugene (Gene) Adkins

Position: FAV

COMMISSIONERS FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

11916 SOMERSET AVENUE, ROOM 111
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RANDY LAIRD



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR-CLERK
RALPH D. TAYLOR

COUNTY ATTORNEY
KIRK G. SIMPKINS

January 28, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environment Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Somerset County- Alcoholic Beverages-Abolishment of Liquor Control Board and
Dispensary System

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members:

After careful consideration, the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County strongly support the passage of SB0495/HB671 that will abolish the Somerset County Liquor Control Board and Dispensary System.

The Board of Commissioners would like to proceed with the abolishment of the Liquor Control Board as the Board strongly feels the county should not be in the alcohol retail business.

Therefore, we as Somerset County Commissioners request for a favorable report and final passage of SB0495/HB671. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ralph D. Taylor". The signature is stylized and includes a large flourish at the end.

Ralph D. Taylor
County Administrator

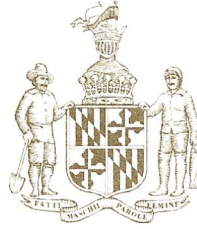
SB 495 Senator Carozza Testimony+Local Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

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

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 4, 2022

The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
SB 495 Somerset County - Alcoholic Beverages - Abolishment of Liquor Control Board and
Dispensary System
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 SB 495 Somerset County - Alcoholic Beverages - Abolishment of Liquor Control Board and Dispensary System**. This legislation was requested by the Somerset County Commissioners.

The bill would allow the sale of liquor by private entities and give the Liquor Licensing Board authority to issue these licenses, set the annual distributor fee to \$5,000, repeal the Liquor Control Board, and establish a Class A Beer, Wine, and Liquor License.

Somerset County is one of three counties including Wicomico and Montgomery that does not allow for sale of liquor by private entities. Under SB 495, the Somerset County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue a Class A BWL license, and license holders would be able to sell beer, wine, and liquor at retail to consumers, which currently is prohibited.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 495, a priority local bill for Somerset County. Thank you for your kind consideration.

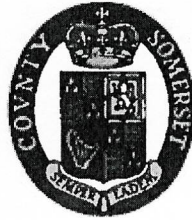
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March 1, 2022

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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.

Senate Bill 495.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert McIntyre

Position: UNF

Written Submission: Somerset County Alcoholic Beverages- Abolishment of Liquor Control Board and Dispensary System (Senate Bill 495)

Submitted By: Robert J. McIntyre
28101 Mount Vernon Rd.
Princess Anne, Maryland 21853
443-614-8377

Date: March 4, 2022

UNFAVORABLE vote for SB 495

The following are reasons for an UNFAVORABLE vote of SB495:

Crisfield-Somerset County Times reported the following facts on February 9, 2022:

- Financially the county would lose \$254,510, based on FY2020/2021 according to Gene Adkins, Somerset County Director of Finance. Adkins projects another profitable fiscal year.
- Currently both Princess Anne and Crisfield each receive \$25,278 to supplement the towns
- County Commissioner, Rex Simpkins has reported that the Liquor Board has NOT lost money. For some reason, Simpkins wants to privatize the liquor sales even though by his own report it has made money for the county
- County Commissioner, Randy Laird's statement that the county could possibly recoup about \$25,000 through the \$5,000 licensing fee for each liquor store does not seem feasible since there is no guarantee that the county would even have 5 liquor stores apply
- The county currently owns 2 liquor store properties located in Princess Anne, and Pocomoke/Southern Somerset. This will increase profits. The Pocomoke/Southern Somerset store even draws income from neighboring county and state.
- There are absolutely no guarantees how many or IF any retail stores would want to set up a store, therefore the \$25,000 may not even be reached

2020 Census reports:

- Somerset County's population: 24,620. This would question how many liquor licenses would even be issued, once again reducing the chances of even recouping \$25,000.
- Median Household Income was \$37,803
- Persons in Poverty was 22.2%
 - These numbers from the Census reports highlights that EVERY dollar counts for county revenue

Summary: Consider an UNFAVORABLE vote for SB 495 due to revenue loss for the County.

- Somerset County remains one of the poorest counties in the State.
- Every dollar of revenue is critical to Somerset County residents
- County financial liabilities continue to rise to the point of increased taxation on properties which will put families in jeopardy of losing their homes

