

# **BFerguson SB 771 - D46 Liquor Licenses - EHEA Test**

Uploaded by: Senate President Bill Ferguson

Position: FAV



*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

**SB 771 - Baltimore City - 46th District - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses**

Testimony of Senate President Bill Ferguson

On March 4, 2022

Before the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

I respectfully urge the committee to support Senate Bill 771, the 46th District Delegation's annual local liquor bill.

**This year, SB 771 has three main components:**

1. Page 2, Lines 20-25: Makes adjustments to the operating hours for vendors holding a liquor license within Cross Street Market, and lowers the annual license fee from \$7,500 to \$6,000 per year. These changes are supported by the surrounding local neighborhood associations.
2. Page 3, Lines 24-26 and Page 4, Lines 8-14: Allows for Ovenbird Bakery to transfer a liquor license to its new facility that is within 300 feet of a school, provided there is a memorandum of understanding from the Highlandtown Community Association.
  - A similar provision was approved by this body in 2020 when we believed DiPasquale's would be taking over the same space at 3925 Gough Street, but was struck in 2021 to avoid unintended consequences.
  - More information on Ovenbird Bakery's expansion [can be found through The Baltimore Sun here](#).
3. Page 4, Line 20: Extends the sunset for the license of Big Jim's Deli in Federal Hill. Again, the measure is supported by the Federal Hill Neighborhood Association.

**Amendments:**

Two amendments were adopted in the Baltimore City Delegation as described below.

- First, there is an amendment to extend the timeframe in which the license holder at 1173 W. Hamburg Street, The Spot, in Pigtown can activate that license.
  - The owner of the license purchased the building in 2019 and then faced immense hardship due to COVID-19 including familial emergencies and delays in renovations and permitting, but did not realize they could apply for a hardship extension with the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners.

- The Citizens of Pigtown community association has provided a letter of support for this legislative extension.
- Second, there is an amendment to increase the possible square footage for market licenses from 20% to 25%. This provision provides needed flexibility for Cross Street Market in Federal Hill as the footprint of the market has been fully built out and businesses fill stalls.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 771 and I urge the committee to report the bill favorably as amended.

# **SB771-MdPHA-INF.pdf**

Uploaded by: Raimee Eck

Position: INFO



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

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**SB 771 Baltimore City – 46<sup>th</sup> District – Alcoholic Beverages Licenses**

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

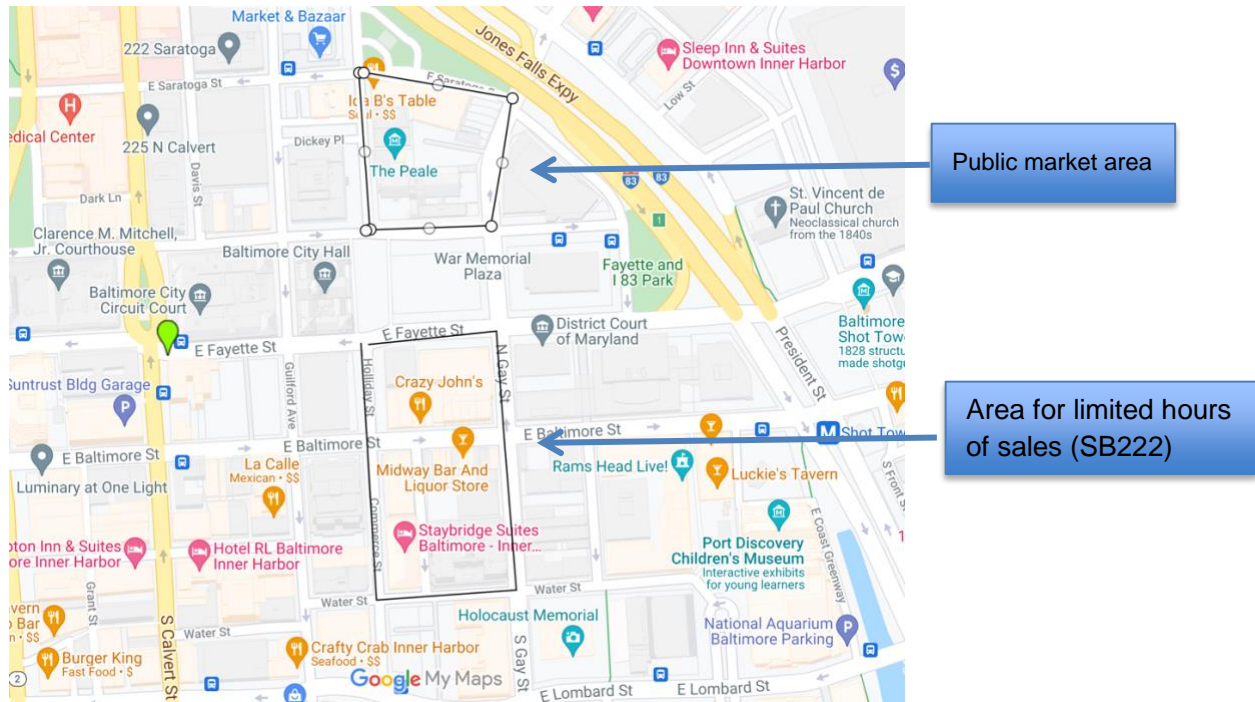
**Committee: EHEA**

**Position: Informational**

Thank you, Chairman Pinsky, Vice-chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee for holding this hearing on SB 771, a bill which, in part, extends hours of service at public markets from 30 minutes to two hours, depending on the day. The Maryland Public Health Association's Alcohol, Tobacco & Cannabis Network has a consideration in regards to this bill.

We are concerned that SB 771 appears to increase the hours of sales for the public market area just one block above another area that is being targeted for a reduction in sales hours (HB 372). We understand and support SB 222, an emergency bill to limit hours of sales to Class A, B-D-7, and adult entertainment venues in an approximately two block area in downtown Baltimore. This strategy of decreasing hours of sales is not only supported by the scientific literature, 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 reducing violent crime through a reduction in hours of sales and seeing the submission of another bill similar to this, we ask the committee to consider these things when making a determination on increasing hours of sales in public markets in SB 771, one of which is in an area that is only one block away (see figure below).



*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.*