

SB0496 Business Regulation - Miscellaneous State Business Licenses – Alterations
Finance Committee – February 24, 2022
Sponsor: Senator Pamela Beidle
Position: Favorable

Testimony of Dawne Lindsey, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Allegany County

Thank you, Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and members of the committee, for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 496. For the record, my name is Dawne Lindsey, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Allegany County. My testimony today is on behalf of the Maryland Circuit Court Clerks' Association, which represents the elected Clerks of the Circuit Court in Maryland.

Our Clerk's Association supports SB 496 because it accomplishes several important updates to business licensing, specifically:

SB 496 updates wording in Title 17 of the Business Regulation Article to allow for modern technology. For instance, wherever the title refers to the use of paper, that language has been expanded to allow paper or electronic means in order to reflect today's business practices.

The proposed changes update definitions in Title 17 to answer commonly asked questions, such as clarifying that this title applies to for-profit businesses, and does not apply to not-for-profit businesses.

The proposed changes clarify that issuance fees collected by the clerk shall be paid into the general fund of the state.

The proposed changes update notification requirements between the Comptroller and the clerks to reflect current business practices and clarify the language regarding the transfer of licenses from one party to another.

The proposed changes clarify that non-resident construction licenses shall be issued in the first county in which the company does business.

The proposed changes also clarify when a business needs a peddler's license and when it needs a trader's license. For instance, it clarifies that for a mobile place of business, such as a food truck, if the business is always parked at the same location when doing business then it should be issued a trader's license, but if it moves around then it should get a peddler's license.

The proposed changes clarify a long-standing question regarding whether a Storage Warehouse license applies to self-storage units or not. It codifies the longstanding interpretation from the Comptroller's Office that the business itself should be issued a warehouse license, but every individual in the warehouse does not need a license.

Our Association hopes you will give a favorable report on SB 496, and we would like to thank Senator Beidle for sponsoring this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and I am available if you have any questions.