



Liquor Control Board for Harford County, Maryland

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February 16, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Chair, Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB1063– Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages – Health Club License - OPPOSE

To the Honorable C.T. Wilson, Chair, and the members of the Economic Matters Committee:

The Harford County Liquor Control Board (HCLCB) respectfully submits the below recommendations and comments for HB1063, Health Club License for the 2023 session:

This legislation is intended to create a beer, wine, and liquor license for Health Clubs in Harford County.

On behalf of the Commissioners of the Harford County (MD) Liquor Control Board, I wish to convey to the Members of the Harford County Delegation that the Board Commissioners has reviewed the proposal and is not in favor and strongly opposes the creation of a “new” class of license for Health Clubs in Harford County.

The HCLCB is offering the following rationale to support its final decision.

Health Clubs are supposed to promote “Healthy Lifestyles.”

Health Clubs often involve families seeking healthy alternatives and initiatives that promote engaging in healthy choices, especially for their children.

Health Clubs, by their very nature, are supposed to support and promote HEALTHY environments.

Alcohol has long been recognized by the medical community as a depressant and therefore does not promote a Healthy lifestyle.

Unfortunately, those individuals who overindulge tend to make choices they would not normally consider if they were NOT influenced by the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Additionally, the license proposed would afford the licensees the ability to serve BEER, WINE, and LIQUOR.

The HCLCB has expressed its concerns regarding a Health Clubs' ability to establish appropriate safety and security plans for containing and confining alcoholic beverages to specific areas/locations within the licensed premises and prohibiting the access of alcoholic beverages by underage individuals who often support and are patrons of these types of establishments.

Additionally, the HCLCB has received comments regarding HB1063 from the restaurants adjacent to health clubs and how the passage of the bill will negatively impact their businesses.

Thank you for considering the concerns and recommendations of the HCLCB for the Health Club License.

If the Commissioners of the Board may be of any further assistance to the Committee, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Michael Crabbs', is positioned above the printed name.

W. Michael Crabbs
General Manager