

HB 0905

February 20, 2023 @ 1:00 PM

Board of License Commissioners

Liquor Control Board of Garrett County

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February 15, 2023

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

RE: HOUSE BILL 0905 - GARRETT COUNTY
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ACT OF 2023

Dear Chair Wilson:

The Board of License Commissioners / Liquor Control Board requested the Garrett County Delegation to introduce House Bill 0905. The legislative request relates to Title 21 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article specific to Garrett County. The request includes housekeeping amendments to the Class B BWL hotel or motel license, Gift Basket Permit, Class C Multiple-Day License, Class C Multiple-Event License, Sunday hours and the expiration of a license.

The request to amend the Class B BWL license for a hotel or motel from requiring at least 25 rooms to 10 rooms is to allow a currently licensed motel that has less than 25 rooms to upgrade their license. The change to the Gift Basket Permit was requested by the permit holder to also purchase certain alcoholic beverages from a wholesaler. The amendments to the Multiple-Day and Multiple-Event License are to allow a qualifying non-profit who holds a license of a different class or nature to also hold a Class C multiple-day or multiple-event license for a fundraiser. The expansion of Sunday sales hours was requested by several license holders to expand the hours when their customers could purchase alcoholic beverages due consumer demand. The Board agreed with the request to open earlier on Sunday were permitted. The request for the framework revision to the expiration of a license in Garrett County would allow under certain situations a license may expire six months after the license holder has closed or stopped active beverages business operations. This is a result of requests by several licensed businesses that have recently closed and are trying to sell the business with the license that the license be placed on hold. Garrett County would like to move away from the State provision of the license expiring 10 days after a license holder has vacated or been evicted from the license premise. This amendment would allow the license to be placed on hold for up to six months under certain conditions and considerations.

The Board of License Commissioners / Liquor Control Board ask for your favorable consideration of House Bill 0905 and thank you for the support you may give this legislative issue.

Sincerely,

Deborah R. Owston
Administrator of the Board of License Commissioners

cc: Delegate James Hinebaugh, Jr.
Senator Mike McKay