



The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

SB 607 - Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - 46th Alcoholic Beverages District - Revisions

Testimony of Senate President Bill Ferguson

On February 24, 2023

Before the Senate Finance Committee

I respectfully urge my colleagues to support Senate Bill 607, the 46th District Delegation's annual local liquor bill.

This year, SB 607 has five main components:

1. Page 2, Lines 17-22: Allows for the Creative Alliance's current liquor license to extend from their main building (The Patterson) to their new premises directly across the street (The Creativity Center).
2. Page 4, Lines 24-30 and Page 5, Lines 19-25: Creates an incentive for the developer of the historic Patterson Bowling Center to include a duckpin bowling alley at the site after its redevelopment by creating a liquor license for that location. The license has a few unique features:
 - First, that license can only be issued if the building has an operational duckpin bowling alley and capital improvements totaling \$500,000 or more, excluding residential improvements;
 - Second, the license is exempted from a minimum seating or food sales requirement, taking into account the unique nature of a duckpin bowling alley; and
 - Third, the license may not be transferred to a different location.
3. Page 5, Lines 26-29 and Page 6, Lines 1-20: Creates a process by which Class D Beer and Light Wine license holders may convert that license to a Class D Beer, Wine, and Liquor license if specific requirements are met, including:
 - Maintaining a daily average of 51% of receipts from food sales;
 - Operates in a location with 75 or fewer seats;
 - Pays a special one-time transfer fee of \$15,000, plus annual fees for license renewal; and
 - Executes a memorandum of understanding with the relevant local neighborhood association as determined by the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners.
 - Further, a converted license under this newly created subsection may not be transferred to a new location and any new owner must comply with the above requirements.
4. Page 7, Lines 11-12: Eases the transfer requirements in Ward 3, Precinct 3 (near the Perkins Somerset Oldtown Transformation) by increasing an establishment's seating capacity to 200 or fewer. This change is anticipation of a new speakeasy and beer garden concept that is planned for that area.
5. Page 7, Lines 13-16: Extends the expiration date of a license on the 4300 block of East Lombard Street

so it can be transferred to a new owner.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 607 and I urge the Committee to report the bill favorably.