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Education, Energy, and
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Executive Nominations Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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The Senate Finance Committee

**SB 135 – Worcester County – Alcoholic Beverages – Ocean City Promoter’s License
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza**

Thank you, Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the distinguished Senate Finance Committee for allowing me to present Senate Bill 135 – Worcester County – Alcoholic Beverages – Ocean City Promoter’s License.

This is a local bill that establishes an Ocean City promoter’s license in Worcester County and authorizes the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners to issue the license to a for-profit organization to sell beer, wine, and liquor at entertainment events held within the town limits of Ocean City. As amended, the license must be approved by the Ocean City Police Department and only applies to one event. In order for an organization to sell beer, wine, and liquor at another entertainment event, they will have to re-apply.

Right now, the only way to sell alcohol at a special event in Ocean City is to have a local non-profit purchase and serve the alcohol. However, as the tourism industry grows, and events draw larger crowds, this is no longer practical. This bill would ensure that alcohol is served in a safe, efficient, and professional manner through businesses that are accustomed to serving in major event settings.

Ocean City strongly desires to grow tourism through its special events and attract first-class performances and festivals while maintaining the safest possible service and sale of alcohol. Being able to issue a promoter’s license, just as Frederick County, Allegany County, and Baltimore City are authorized to do, and would allow Ocean City to do so on a limited basis. This bill would encourage a longer tourism season, leading to more full-time jobs, more investment, and more economic growth.

I truly appreciate your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully ask for a swift and favorable report on SB 135.