

SB0854AlcoholChoice.pdf

Uploaded by: William Henry

Position: FAV

William H. Henry

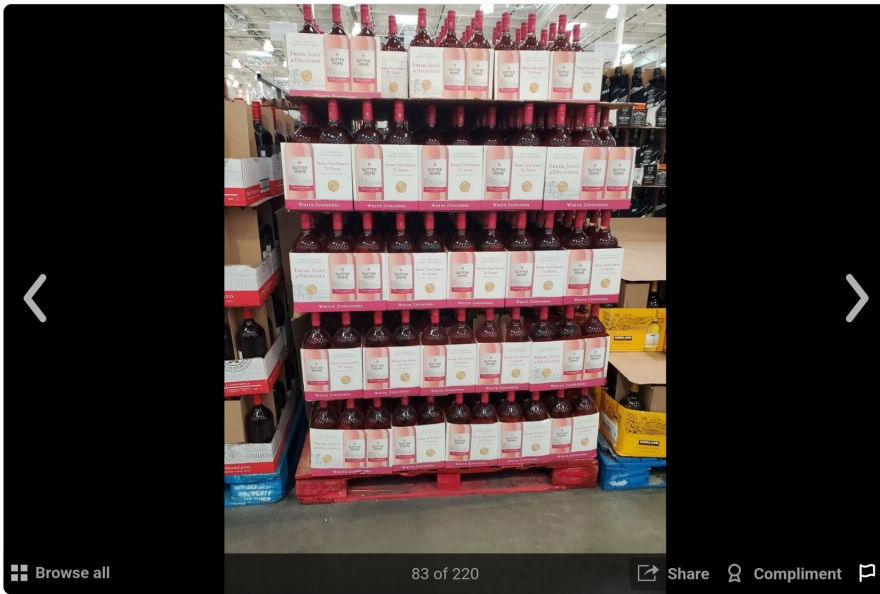
5806 Vandegrift Ave.
Rockville, MD 20851
(240) 988-9073
bill.henry3@verizon.net

02/23/2023

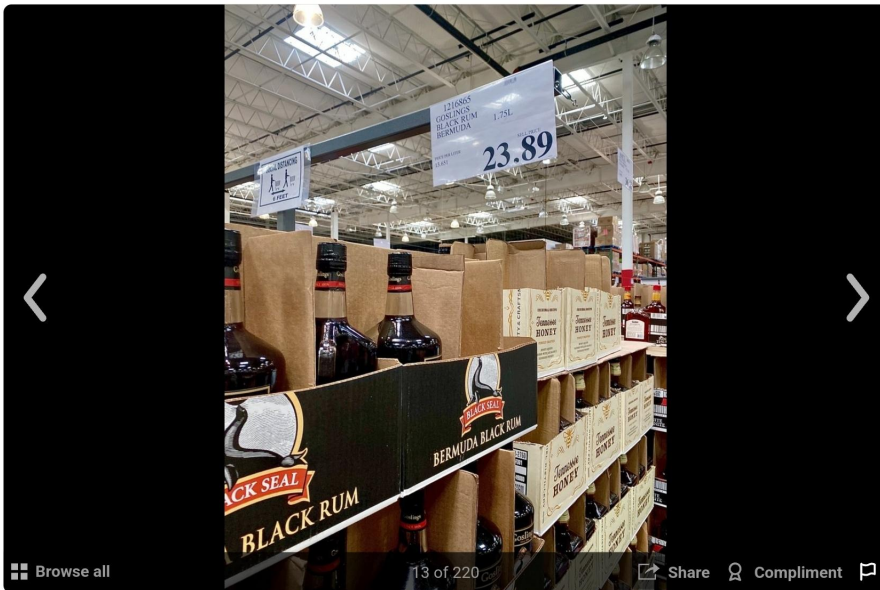
Dear Senator McCray,

I am in support of SB0854, so that Maryland can have more choices when purchasing alcoholic beverages. One would only need to drive to the Costco at 2441 Market Street in Washington, DC to see the extensive selection of beer, wine, and spirits that are available for consumers to purchase. (Pictures below)

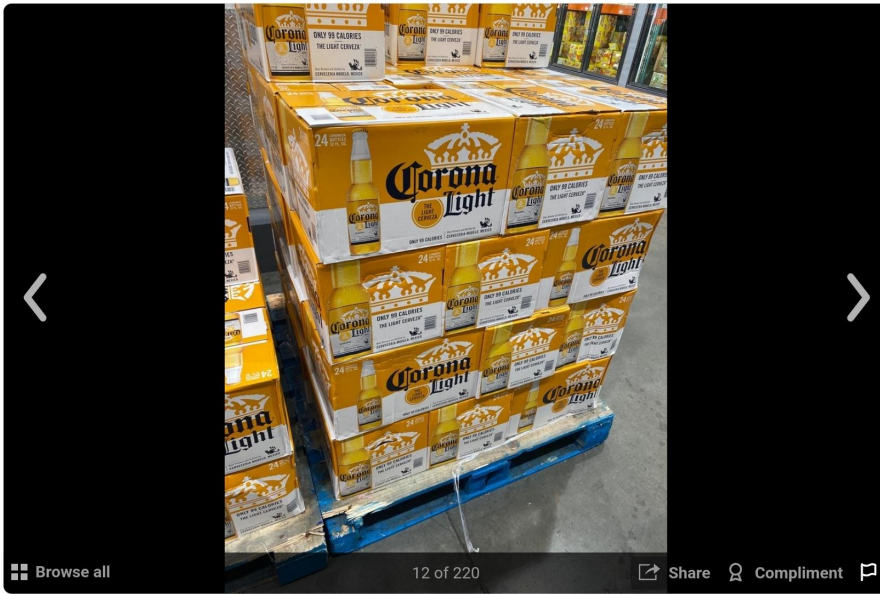
220 photos for Costco



220 photos for Costco



220 photos for Costco



Stop sending Maryland tax dollars to DC and Virginia and allow Maryland to collect their share of alcoholic tax revenue. Marylanders need the ability to buy beer and wine in any grocery store. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

William Henry

2409889073

SB 854 written.pdf

Uploaded by: Kirk McCauley

Position: FWA



WMDA/CAR Service Station
and Automotive Repair Association

February 24, 2023

Chairperson: Melony Griffith
Members of Senate Finance Committee

RE:SB 854 Alcoholic Beverages – Class A License – Food Retailers

Position: In Favor with Amendments

WMDA represents convenience stores across Maryland. Our stores and employees are part of the community and offer a wide range of food and non-alcoholic drinks. They also support community and charitable fund raising events, sponsoring youth sports, while employing thousands of Marylanders.

Our retailers would like to see Class A beer and wine licenses extended to our facilities as well as grocery stores. We are in the communities now and consumers and small retailers would benefit.

A good many of our county's offer this convenience now, with no more problems than counties that restrict sales to privileged locations.

As locally owned businesses, our locations should have the same opportunity and considerations as the big corporate grocery chains, without size consideration.

Thank you.

WMDA/CAR is a trade association that has represented service stations, convenience stores and repair shops since 1937. Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley 301-775-0221 or kmccauley@wmda.net

WMDA/CAR is a trade association that has represented service stations, convenience stores and independent repair shops since 1937. Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley, 301-775-0221 or kmccauley@wmda.ne

SB 854 - Royal Farms Testimony_Alcoholic Beverages

Uploaded by: Shelby Kemp

Position: FWA



February 24, 2023

Senator Melony Griffith
Chair, Finance
3 East Miller Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 854 - Alcoholic Beverages – Class A Licenses – Retail Grocery Establishments – FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Dear Chairwoman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shelby Kemp. I am a Marketing Project Manager for Royal Farms Convenience Stores. Royal Farms main business includes convenience, fuel, and quick service restaurants. We are a third-generation family-owned business, headquartered in Baltimore city. We operate 172 stores in Maryland, employing 3,167 employees.

We strongly support having the ability to purchase a license to sell beer and wine in our stores. At Royal Farms, we strive to cater to our customers and provide them with what they want. Data points to the fact that customers want the ability to purchase beer and wine at their local convenience or grocery store. Recent public opinion polls continue to demonstrate that consumers strongly support the ability to purchase beer and wine in convenience stores. Maryland is one out of four states that does the purchase of beer and wine at convenience or grocery stores.

This legislation provides safeguards that convenience or grocery stores must be a certain distance from schools, residences, and places of worship. SB 854 also requires that stores be larger than 3,200 square feet. The bill also requires that stores that sell beer or wine offer certain foods and provide food and beverages to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients.

In conclusion, allowing convenience stores and grocery stores to apply for a license to sell beer and wine will benefit consumers, our economy, and our state. Please vote in favor of SB 854.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shelby Kemp".

Shelby Kemp
Marketing Project Manager
skemp@royalfarms.com

Opposition to Food Facility Alcohol Sales SB854.p

Uploaded by: Kathleen Hoke

Position: UNF

Public Health Law Clinic
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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 854
Alcoholic Beverages - Class A License - Food Retailers
Finance Committee, February 24, 2023

Senate Bill 854 will significantly increase the number of locations where alcohol will be sold in Maryland. With already stretched budgets for enforcement of all alcohol laws, local agencies tasked with preventing alcohol sales to minors will simply be unable to keep up with the additional licensed locations. Less risk of a compliance check means that retailers will be more willing to risk alcohol sales to minors. Moreover, the locations that would be able to sell alcohol under Senate Bill 854 are, unlike traditional liquor stores, locations where teens and youth frequently go to purchase candy, chips, and other sundries.

Therefore, the most pressing public health concern stemming from Senate Bill 854 is the potential for an increase in underage access to alcoholic beverages. The Centers for Disease Control links underage drinking to a multitude of issues including: higher rates of school absences and lower grades; unprotected sexual activity; disruption of normal growth and brain development; physical and sexual violence; increased risk of suicide and homicide; alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes and other unintentional injuries, such as burns, falls, or drowning; misuse of other substances; and alcohol poisoning.¹ People who use alcohol when they are young are more likely to develop alcohol dependency later in life.²

Senate Bill 854 creates a new avenue for underage persons to access alcoholic beverages, without providing needed resources or strategies necessary to conduct youth-access enforcement operations. For this reason, we ask for an unfavorable report.

This testimony is submitted by the Public Health Law Clinic at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law and may not represent the position of the School of Law; the University of Maryland, Baltimore; or the University of Maryland System.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/underage-drinking.htm>; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Surgeon General. *Facing addiction in America: The Surgeon General's report on alcohol, drugs, and health*, Washington, DC: HHS, 2016.; Miller JW, Naimi TS, Brewer RD, Jones SE. *Binge drinking and associated health risk behaviors among high school students*. *Pediatrics* 2007;119:76–85.; Esser MB, Guy GP, Zhang K, Brewer RD. *Binge drinking and prescription opioid misuse in the U.S., 2012-2014*. *Am J Prev Med* 2019;57,197-208.;

² Buchmann AF, Schmid B, Blomeyer D, et al. *Impact of age at first drink on vulnerability to alcohol-related problems: Testing the marker hypothesis in a prospective study of young adults*. *J Psychiatr Res* 2009;43:1205-1212.

SB854-food-retailer-MdPHA-UNF.pdf

Uploaded by: Raimee Eck

Position: UNF



Mission: To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy *Vision:* Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities

SB 854 Alcoholic Beverages – Class A License – Food Retailers

Hearing Date: 2/24/23

Committee: Finance

Position: Unfavorable

Thank you, Chairman Wilson and members of the Finance Committee for holding this hearing on SB 854, which would allow local liquor licensing boards to issue Class A beer, beer/wine, or beer/wine/liquor licenses to retail establishments that meet certain requirements in terms of types of products and size. The Maryland Public Health Association’s Alcohol, Cannabis & Tobacco Network urges an unfavorable report on this bill.

Issuing licenses like this could lead to a massive increase in licenses in a short time period. The definition of a food retailer allows inclusion of most 7-11, Royal Farms, and Highs gas stations, in addition to Costco, Sam’s, and every standard grocery store chain. Research consistently demonstrates that increased alcohol outlet density, especially for off-premise outlets (i.e., those who sell unopened containers), is associated with an increase in a number of harms, including violence, criminal activity, domestic violence, and child maltreatment. It is also very costly; a recent study in Baltimore City demonstrated that alcohol-related harms cost \$582 million each year, almost 40% of which the government is responsible for. Alcohol consumption has been steadily rising nationally, especially for women and minorities; as consumption rises, so do alcohol-related harms.

Grocery and chain stores are not primarily in the business of selling alcohol, and may not be as well versed and equipped to prevent underage sales. Research demonstrates that liquor stores are more consistent in checking IDs of people purchasing alcohol. Additionally, large chain stores are generally able to lower the cost of alcohol, which can lead to increased levels of consumption and related harms, as nearby businesses try to compete. This can also have negative effects on these existing locally owned alcohol outlets, as they are ultimately unable to compete with the lower prices.

We are also concerned about the size requirements on page 3, (A)(3)(II)(2) where it details a location at least 6,000 square feet, but with only 5% dedicated to food products. This sounds like the description of another liquor store, not a food retailer.

In legislation passed in 2019, the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission was tasked with “the development of a public health impact statement for all changes to the state alcoholic beverages law...”. A statewide bill like this should be subject to such a statement to scientifically and expertly evaluate the impact on existing businesses, communities, local liquor boards, and public health and safety.

For these reasons, we urge an unfavorable report on SB 854.

The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of

Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA)

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the American Public Health Association, a nearly 150-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing health disparities that plague our state and our nation.