

PAMELA G. BEIDLE
Legislative District 32
Anne Arundel County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Finance Committee

Chair, Executive Nominations Committee

Spending Affordability Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

Joint Committee on Management of
Public Funds

Chair, Anne Arundel County
Senate Delegation



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 202
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3593 · 301-858-3593
800-492-7122 Ext. 3593
Pamela.Beidle@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 24, 2023

SB 322

Alcoholic Beverages – Class 4 Limited Winery License – Food Service

Good afternoon, Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, Members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity today to present SB 322, Class 4 Limited Winery License – Food Service for your consideration. The goal of SB322 is to enable wineries, with the proper local licensing and permitting, to be able to serve more varieties of food – alongside their Maryland made wine.

I often enjoy visiting wineries when I travel, many that I have visited, offer a full menu to showcase their wines. Maryland does not currently have this option. Our wineries for over ten years, have been limited in the assortment of foods: cheeses, fruits, and pizza – they can offer their visitors. If we want our wine industry to continue to grow and build on the gains they have made over the past 20 years, we should enable them to do more.

This legislation enables wineries to go through the process to obtain the proper local licensing and serve additional food options that other food establishments can serve. This change allows wineries to serve food in the same way farm breweries are already allowed to do with their class 8 farm brewery license.

Expanding food options for wineries is important as:

- this level of food service is already permitted at Maryland farm breweries.
- It enables wineries to expand their food options, however it does not require them to do so.
- Provides Marylanders and tourist additional food options as wineries are often in rural locations.
- Additional food options promote public safety as food slows the rate at which alcohol is absorbed by a person's body.

There is one sponsor amendment, the amendment clarifies the legislative intent dating back to the Winery Modernization Act of 2010 that wineries are indeed able to “prepare” foods that

they may serve – such as pizzas, chili, soup, and others which wineries already serve to customers.

Marylanders deserve the ability to enjoy a nice meal at a winery, paired with Maryland made wine. Thank you for your time, and I urge a favorable report on this legislation.