

**SB 787 - FAV - MHLA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Amy Rohrer

Position: FAV

# MHLA

## Maryland Hotel Lodging Association

### Testimony in Support of SB 787

*Garrett County - Hotel Rental Tax - Alterations*

February 21, 2024

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

The Maryland Hotel Lodging Association (MHLA) serves as the sole statewide trade association dedicated to advocacy for Maryland's 750+ hotels. Our industry employs more than 25,000 individuals and provides the state with \$1 billion in state and local taxes, \$5 billion in total wages and salaries, and \$9 billion in total gross domestic product.

The hotel industry supports home sharing and we have long advocated for ordinances that officially legalize such short-term rentals. But we also believe short-term rentals should abide by the same laws as hotels and every other business: registering their business, paying taxes, following laws and regulations, and removing illegal listings.

This legislation proposes updates to ensure that short-term rental platforms collect and remit hotel tax on all of their bookings in Garrett County. Hosting platforms are already required to collect and remit Maryland sales tax on behalf of hosts.<sup>1</sup> Requiring hosting platforms to also collect hotel tax at the point of sale in Garrett County will help to eliminate the unfair pricing disadvantage for hotels and other short-term rentals that already do so. This would result in transparency for consumers along with fairness for all who are in the business of providing lodging accommodations in the county.

Hotels, short-term rental operators, attractions, restaurants and the county itself all stand to benefit from enhanced short-term rental platform accountability in Garrett County. Increased hotel tax collection typically leads to more funding for tourism marketing and promotion of a destination. As more visitors choose to stay and spend their dollars in Garrett County, it will result in an even greater economic impact by the tourism industry locally and statewide.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a Favorable Report on SB 787.

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<sup>1</sup> [Ch 704 hb0884T.pdf \(maryland.gov\)](#)

# **SB787.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV

**MIKE MCKAY**  
*Legislative District 1*  
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 416  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3565 • 301-858-3565  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3565  
Mike.McKay@senate.state.md.us

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Executive Nominations Committee

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

Senate Bill 787 – Garrett County – Hotel Rental Tax – Alterations

February 19, 2024

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 787 – Garrett County – Hotel Rental Tax – Alterations. The bill's purpose is to allow Garrett County to levy a tax on different vacation rental units that are not just hotels. These will now include places such as houses, condominiums, apartments, or other dwellings. This will increase revenue for Garrett County during tourism.

I thank you and ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay  
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland  
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties