



MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

HB 633 Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Barbershop and Beauty Salon License

UNFAVORABLE House Economic Matters Committee February 19, 2024

Greetings and thank you, Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the committee.

Under HB 633 the Board of license commissioners may issue a beer and wine license to a barbershop or beauty salon in the county (unless it is a mobile entity or a school) to provide up to two servings of beer or wine at no cost to their clients.

Although most people who consume alcohol do not have identifiable associated harms, exposure to alcohol products among those simply seeking a haircut or beauty services is likely to trigger increased alcohol use among those trying to control their consumption and those with a history of heavy or harmful use. **This is potentially large number of people.**

Heavy drinking (consumption greater than the amount recommended in guidelines) occurs in over 5% of adults and is associated with adverse outcomes. (CDC 2018)

Problems associated with alcohol use include high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, liver disease, digestive problems, cancer (of the breast, mouth, throat, esophagus, voice box, liver, colon, and rectum), dementia, poor school performance, depression, anxiety, social and family problems, unemployment, impaired immune function, and alcohol use disorder. (CDC 2022)

The density of alcohol establishments is associated with predictors of health disparities and has been considered a community risk factor that may influence behavior. (Berke). **It would be reasonable to predict that increasing the density of establishments that serve alcohol may increase alcohol-related harms.**

Alcohol use is the fifth leading cause of preventable death in the U.S. (NIAAA) About 1 in 10 children live in households with a parent who has had alcohol use disorder within the past year. (SAMHSA) There is no threshold of alcohol consumption below which cancer risk does not increase." (WCRF)

We respectfully urge an unfavorable report.

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REFERENCES:

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- SAMHSA: Children Living With Parents Who Have A Substance Use Disorder. 2017
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<https://www.wcrf.org/diet-activity-and-cancer/cancer-prevention-recommendations/limit-alcohol-consumption/>