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STATE OF MARYLAND  
**BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**  
FOR BALTIMORE CITY  
1 N. CHARLES STREET, SUITE 1500  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, 21201-3724  
PHONE: (410) 396-4377

February 16, 2024

TO: The Honorable Members of the Economic Matters Alcoholic Beverages  
Subcommittee

FROM: Michelle Wirzberger, Esq., Deputy Executive Secretary

RE: House Bill 733 Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages - Licensing Fees

DATE: February 19, 2024

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Jackson and members of the Economic Matters Alcoholic Beverages Subcommittee, please be advised that the Baltimore Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City Supports House Bill 733.

House Bill 733 would increase the annual licensing fees for all liquor licenses regulated by the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City. The enhanced fees would increase the Board's annual revenue by at least \$823,185. This increased revenue would allow up to four new liquor inspectors to be hired.

Currently, the Agency employs nine (9) liquor inspectors. They each cover routine inspections of licenses in assigned districts that correspond with the nine police districts within Baltimore City. In addition, our inspectors participate in special investigations, post properties to provide notice of upcoming transfer hearings, respond to 311 complaints, assist with the Social Club Task Force and contribute to enforcement efforts when we have large, permitted events for which extensions, pub crawl permit or one-day licenses have been granted such as neighborhood festivals. They also participate in city-wide planning efforts prior to and enforcement strategies during city supported events such as AFRAM, Artscape, and CIAA.

With approximately 1,200 licenses throughout Baltimore City, enforcement of all applicable laws, rules and MOUs is a sizeable and significant task. Employing additional inspectors would

enable the Agency to better ensure that all licensees are operating in a way that is respectful of the communities in which they are located.

Therefore, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 733.