

COMMISSIONERS FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

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January 30, 2024

The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **House Bill 443 as amended** –Alcoholic Beverages-Class C Fraternal or Sororal Organization – **Letter of Support**

Dear Delegate Wilson and Committee Members:

The Board of Commissioners for Somerset County wish to state their support to House Bill 443 as amended – Alcoholic Beverages-Class C Fraternal or Sororal Organization.

The passage of the local bill will allow Service Club license holders in Somerset County to purchase alcohol from local retailers. The burden of cost to these non-profit organizations is causing much hardship; as currently they are required to buy bulk amounts from three specific distributors/wholesalers, two of which are located across the Bay Bridge, and the other in Salisbury; who only deliver once a week. Having to purchase in this way is a financial hardship to their inventory expense.

The benefits that will be gained by the passage of this bill will improve cost control by eliminating required minimum purchases, providing flexibility to buy minimum requirements such as single bottles, split cases and last-minute purchases that are needed. In addition, the passage of this bill will create a more competitive marketplace and reduce delivery scheduling and volunteer requirements.

Thank you for your consideration, and we therefore powerfully recommend a **favorable report** on HB 443 as amended.

Sincerely,



Randy Laird
Vice President

Cc: Senator Carozza

January 31, 2024

The Honorable C. T. Wilson
Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Md. 21401

Re: **House Bill 443 as amended** – Alcoholic Beverages-Class C Fraternal or Sororal Organization – **Letter of Support**

Dear Delegate Wilson and Committee Members:

The Officers of American Legion Stanley Cochran Post 16 in Crisfield Maryland wish to state their strong support to House Bill 443 as amended – Alcoholic Beverages-Class C Fraternal or Sororal Organization.

We are a non-profit veterans organization governed by a membership elected group of volunteers and supported by our membership of Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion. The passage of this local bill will allow us, and like service club license holders, to purchase alcohol from local retailers. We are currently required to purchase all alcohol from three large distributors, two of which are located on the western shore, at a major cost disadvantage for our small and local operation. Additionally, the majority of our purchases **MUST** be made by-the-case, or pay a “price penalty” for a lesser order or split case. Requiring purchases in this manner is a major financial hardship and requires excessive inventory expense. By comparison, we also buy food product and soft goods from two large food distributors, SYSCO and Holt Foods. Yet, we can also buy from our local Food Lion store, seafood distributors and farmer’s markets without restriction. This allows us the needed ability to competitively purchase and also purchase in small quantities and last minute items when needed. Why should there be such a required disadvantage and penalty in our purchase of alcohol??

The benefits to be gained by the passage of this bill will significantly help to improve our cost control and cash flow, both of which are critically important to us and to our ability to survive and operate in this economic environment.

Thank you for your consideration, and we respectfully and strongly recommend a **favorable report** on HB 443 as amended.

Sincerely,
Donald Waters
Commander



Improved, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World, Inc.

Crisfield Pride Lodge #194
P.O. Box 283, 120 S. 4th Street
Crisfield, MD 21817

February 1, 2024

The Honorable C. T. Wilson
Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **House Bill 443 as amended** - -Alcoholic Beverages -Class C Fraternal or Sororal Organization – **Letter of Support**

Dear Delegate Wilson and Committee Members:

The Officers and Members of Crisfield Pride Lodge #194 wish to state their full support to House Bill 443 as amended – Alcoholic Beverages-Class C Fraternal or Sororal Organization.

We are a small, member-based, non-profit organization serving our members and our local community. The passage of this local bill will allow us, and like service club license holders, to purchase alcohol from local retailers. The cost burden of having to buy in bulk cases, from three separate distributors, is causing significant financial hardship and the maintenance of excessive inventory for such a small operation as ours. The benefits to be gained by the passage of this bill will significantly help to improve our cost control and cash flow, both of which are critically important to us and to our ability to survive and operate in this economic environment.

Thank you for your consideration, and we respectfully and strongly recommend a **favorable report** on HB 443 as amended.

Sincerely,
Gary Brown
Gary Brown, Exalted Ruler

Cc: Senator Carozza