



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 19, 2024

The Honorable C. T. Wilson
Chair, House Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: House Bill 635 – Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Performing Arts Nonprofit Organization License – Letter of Information with Amendments

Dear Chair Wilson and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments for House Bill (HB) 635 – Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Performing Arts Nonprofit Organization License. This bill establishes in Harford County a new type of license for nonprofit organizations to sell or serve beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption. The bill stipulates that snacks must be sold or served whenever alcohol is sold.

MDH notes that the term “snacks” is not defined, and license holders may unwittingly serve potentially hazardous foods. Serving meats, cheese trays, and other foods that require temperature control for safety requires a food service facility license under Title 21 of the Health General Article, which ensures a facility takes proper sanitation and safety measures. To ensure that license holders do not endanger their patrons with food-related illnesses, MDH would appreciate the Committee’s consideration of the attached amendments.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

Attachment:
Amendment to House Bill 635

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 635
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 3, starting with “SHALL” on line 17 through “SOLD.” on line 18, and substitute:
“SHALL, AT ALL TIMES WHEN BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR ARE SOLD, SERVE OR OFFER FOR SALE FOOD THAT IS:

(1) PREPACKAGED AND DOES NOT REQUIRE TEMPERATURE CONTROL FOR FOOD SAFETY; OR

(2) PREPARED AND SERVED BY A LICENSED FOOD SERVICE FACILITY AS REQUIRED IN §21-305 OF THE HEALTH GENERAL ARTICLE.”