

**HB1116 Business Regulation - Restaurants and Traders - Licensing**  
**Economic Matters Committee – March 6, 2024**  
**Sponsor: Delegate Andrea Harrison**  
**Position: Favorable**

**Testimony of Heather DeWees, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Carroll County**

Thank you, Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the committee, for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1116. For the record, my name is Heather DeWees, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Carroll County, and the President of the Maryland Circuit Court Clerks' Association, which represents the 24 elected Clerks of the Circuit Court in Maryland.

The Clerks of the Circuit Court support HB 1116 because it clarifies business licensing requirements by closing a potential loophole in the current statutes. Current statutes exempt the holder of a restaurant license from the requirement to obtain a trader's license. In the case of a large retailer that also happens to have a restaurant on its premises, that could mean they would only need to pay the restaurant licensing fee each year, which is as low as \$10, instead of the trader's license fee required of all retailers, which is as high as \$1,600. This bill would clarify that a large retailer with a restaurant would be required to obtain both a trader's license and a restaurant license since they are engaged in both types of business operations.

The Clerks ask for a favorable report on HB 1116, and we would like to thank Delegate Harrison for sponsoring this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and I am available if you have any questions.