



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB1083**

Testimony by Delegate Andrew Pruski  
February 19, 2024 – Economic Matters Committee

**What the Bill Does:**

This bill is designed to alter certain cultivation or production requirements that apply to holders of a Class 4 limited winery license by basing them on Maryland grown agricultural products, rather than just grapes or other fruits as defined by the Federal Alcohol Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. Honey would be a prime example of an agricultural product that would be now included.

**Why the Bill is Important:**

The clarification of grapes or other fruit to Maryland-grown agricultural products, as defined by the Federal Alcohol Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, is inclusive of other products such as honey, benefitting Maryland farmers and growers. This expands the use of other Maryland grown commodities into wine making as well as the cultivation basis for winemakers.

A proposed change will also allow the purchase of bulk wine made of Maryland grown agricultural products by license holders. This will support wineries in Maryland that have limited production capacity to buy wine throughout the year from larger wineries that have the ability to produce a large quality of wine at harvest time. Furthermore, creates a marketplace for grape growers to sell excess agricultural products such as grapes or fruit to licensed holders. This will conserve resources, prevent agricultural waste, as well as stimulate more product to be created by Maryland wineries from Maryland grown agricultural products.

The process wineries go through is unpredictable as crop yield and consumers are constantly changing. These proposed alterations support Maryland small businesses, such as the growers and producers, by allowing them to work together through uncertain circumstances to make Maryland wineries more efficient. This bill furthers the success of Maryland wineries which benefits the economy as well as Maryland's agricultural base.

**Why the Committee Should Vote Favorably:**

Maryland has over 100 wineries and grapes are one of the most produced crops in the state. HB1083 will support the many Maryland wineries by permitting collaboration between each step in the winemaking process to produce quality goods made from Maryland grown agricultural products. **On behalf of Maryland wineries, we urge a favorable report on HB1083.**