

**HB1116 Business Regulation - Restaurants and Traders - Licensing**

**Finance Committee – March 27, 2024**

**Sponsor: Delegate Andrea Harrison**

**Position: Favorable**

**Testimony of Scott Poyer, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Anne Arundel County**

Thank you, Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the committee, for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1116. For the record, my name is Scott Poyer, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. I am also here on behalf 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 will clarify that businesses that only act as a restaurant will only require a restaurant license, but if they also sell merchandise then they will also need a trader's license. This brings the restaurant license into line with all other business licenses, in that each type of license is separate and having one type of license does not grant the holder an exemption from obtaining another type of license.

The bill closes a potential loophole in the current statutes, which led to questions as to whether a large retailer that also happens to have a restaurant on its premises, 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 also support the amendment to exempt restaurants which earn less than 10% of their revenue from merchandise from the requirement to get a separate trader's license.

The Clerks ask for a favorable report on HB 1116 as amended, 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.

Attachment: Letter of Support from Maryland Circuit Court Clerks' Association.

Debra J. Burch – President-Elect  
St. Mary's County

Lisa Yates – Secretary  
Charles County



## Maryland Circuit Court Clerks' Association

Michelle Karczeski – Vice-President  
Harford County

24 Summit Ave.  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

**Heather S. DeWees**  
**President**  
Carroll County

Joyce Tippet – Treasurer  
Charles County

March 25, 2024

Delegate Andrea Harrison  
204 Lowe House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Harrison,

Thank you for sponsoring House Bill 1116, Business Regulation - Restaurants and Traders - Licensing Requirements. The Circuit Court Clerks' Association, representing the twenty-four elected Clerks in the State of Maryland, support this bill to clarify the requirements for restaurant licenses and trader's licenses. We also support the amendment to exempt restaurants which earn less than 10% of their revenue from merchandise from the requirement to get a separate trader's license.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather S. DeWees".

Heather S. DeWees, President  
Maryland Circuit Court Clerks' Association