



*Mission:* To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy *Vision:* Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities

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**SB 1041: Alcoholic Beverages - Breweries, Wineries, and Distilleries - Direct Delivery and Direct Shipment**  
**Hearing Date: February 23, 2024**  
**Committee: Finance**  
**Position: Unfavorable**

On behalf of the Maryland Public Health Association’s Alcohol, Tobacco & Cannabis Network, we thank you all for your work to evaluate and establish alcohol regulations that will keep our communities, youth, and other at-risk populations safe. We are opposed to SB 1041, which would make deliveries .

Public health and substance misuse experts and advocates from across the state have shared their concerns on the possibility of making alcohol delivery sales permanent in Maryland. The expectation was that this was a stop-gap measure temporarily put into place, which has now sunset given the height of the pandemic is passed.

In response to anecdotal evidence that there have been limited problems associated with alcohol delivery sales, this evidence is absent. Due to limited resources and capacity of local liquor boards, robust assessments of these laws have not been done. It is also concerning that delivery includes entities from out of state, and local enforcement may have limited power and capacity to evaluate these sales.

Research has found that adults who use alcohol delivery services tend to drink on more days, drink heavier on those days, and report binge drinking more frequently. Delivery services have also been shown to be used to continue drinking sessions when they otherwise would have ended.

In addition to supporting heavier drinking, there is greater risk of increased youth access. Many delivery service laws use point of delivery ID checks. Compliance checks on these systems with underage youth find failure rates up to 58% of the time, compared with traditional brick and mortar businesses, which may have positive compliance rates of 80-99% of the time.

We acknowledge that there is a certain limited amount of direct wine shipping already in statute; however, we have worked very hard at a national level to limit the expansion of direct alcohol sales of all types across the country. This work extends locally to our work within the state.

We urge an unfavorable report on SB 1041.

*The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 150-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing health disparities that plague our state and our nation.*