

LICENSED BEVERAGE DISTRIBUTORS OF MARYLAND. OPPOSE SB 1041

RE: SB 1041 - DIRECT DELIVERY AND DIRECT SHIPMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BY BREWERIES, WINERIES AND DISTILLERS

Madame Chair, Madame Vice Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maryland's regulatory system is recognized as one of the best in the country. It protects Marylanders from bogus beverages, contaminated products, and counterfeit merchandise. **This bill, HB 1217, attempts to create a giant loophole in the regulatory system with no benefit to Marylanders.** In fact, **it harms Marylanders by opening our borders for direct shipment and delivery from out-of-state producers.**

Relaxation of delivery regulations was allowed during the Covid pandemic and then extended to help local operations transition and make up for lost income. Producers in other states did not do business here because the relaxation was temporary. There is no need and danger to make this a permanent loophole. The only motivation for this is self-serving profit by a few producers. . In short, greed does not justify shucking appropriate regulations.

Maryland's regulatory system serves and protects Marylanders. There is no need to gut it and open up the state to distant competition so a few companies can temporarily increase profits. Licensed Beverage Distributors of Maryland urge the committee to present an UNFAVORABLE report on SB 1041. Thank you.

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