



January 27th, 2025

Testimony of Laura Hale
American Heart Association
Favorable SB 324 Admissions and Amusement Tax - Food and Beverages

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before the committee today. The American Heart Association extends its strong support for SB 324 Admissions and Amusement Tax - Food and Beverages. My name is Laura Hale and I am the Director of Government Relations for the American Heart Association.

Local Control in taxation is an important tool in strengthening policies that support public health. We applaud this legislation for its allowance for localities to address the issues of unhealthy foods and beverages in admission and amusement spaces through taxation. What works in Baltimore may be different than what works in Charles County. Counties and cities in Maryland should be able to go beyond the state in addressing public health needs.

The American Heart Association urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 324.