



Wayne B. Harris
CHAIRMAN

Otis M. Duffie
COMMISSIONER

Bernadette L. Snoops
COMMISSIONER

2011-D COMMERCE PARK DR.
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

(410) 222-1148
FAX: (410) 222-1810

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Class C (Veterans' Organization) License – Event Permit - HB 571

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

We are writing to express our support for House Bill 571, with the amendments that have been suggested. This bill would allow veterans' organizations to sell and serve beer, wine, and liquor to the general public at licensed one-day events held on the licensed premises.

The proposed amendments to House Bill 571 address several key concerns. First, the amendments clarify that this privilege would only be available to holders of a Class C (veterans' organization) license (see below regarding the possibility of extending to other Class C licensees*). This ensures that the permit is only used by legitimate veterans' organizations.

Second, the amendments require that any third-party, non-club event organizer continue to obtain a one-day liquor license from the Board. This ensures that all events where alcohol is sold to the general public continue to be properly licensed and regulated.

Additionally, we suggest removing the permit requirement for this new privilege. Doing so saves the clubs time and money and the permit becomes moot if we make the change directly to the license class definition per our suggested changes. With the Board's suggested changes to the legislation, the licensee will have to take no action with the Board to enjoy this privilege.

We believe that House Bill 571, with the Board's proposed changes, is a positive step for our Class C veteran's licensees in Anne Arundel County. It will allow these organizations to generate additional revenue, while also ensuring that all events where alcohol is sold are properly licensed and regulated.

*(Likewise, if this legislation proves successful, the legislature could consider extending this provision to other Class C licensees who currently can only serve and sell to their members and guests. This could potentially lead to increased revenue and flexibility for a wider range of organizations.)