MIKE ROGERS Legislative District 32 Anne Arundel County

Economic Matters Committee

Subcommittees Banking, Consumer Protection, and Commercial Law Unemployment Insurance



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 17th, 2025

Testimony in Favor of HB0099 Anne Arundel County - Class A (Off-Sale) and Class D (Off-Sale) Licenses – Population Ratio Quota

Chair Wilson, Vice- Chair Crosby and members of Economic Matters Committee

I respectfully request a favorable report of **HB0099**. During the Anne Arundel County Delegation Meeting, a friendly amendment, **HB0099/503429/1**, was worked on and accepted by vote 15-0. The bill will implement a population quota for the number of off-premise alcoholic beverage licenses that can be issued in the County. Similar laws already exist in 12 other counties in Maryland. Anne Arundel County has had a population quota statue in existence for many years, but it is discretionary. This legislation would make it mandatory.

Once the quota is adopted the Liquor Board would annually determine the population in each assessment District using population data from the US Census Bureau or estimates prepared by the Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning. If the existing number of licenses exceeds one per 3,750 individuals, additional licenses would not be available in that District. On the other hand, if the existing number of licenses is less than one per 3,750 individuals additional, licenses could be issued but would still have to undergo liquor board review. With other counties, the population data can be updated annually, ensuring that as the population grows in a District, the new number of licenses will as well, so that the surrounding community has adequate availability of alcoholic beverages, but not an overabundance of outlets. The bill will sunset December 31, 2028 and can be reviewed again at that time.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB0099 as amended with HB0099/503429/1.

Sincerely,

Mike Rogers

Mike Rogers Maryland Delegate, *32nd District*