



House Bill 1318

Alcoholic Beverages - Premium Cigar Lounge License - Establishment (Maryland Premium Cigar Lounge Act of 2025)

February 17, 2025

Position: **OPPOSE**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

The Restaurant Association of Maryland opposes HB 1318, which would allow for a premium cigar lounge liquor license.

Many of our restaurant bars accommodated smoking customers before Maryland's Clean Indoor Air Act became law in 2008. Given that the General Assembly banned smoking in indoor areas open to the public, including establishments that sell/serve alcohol and other workplaces, it would be unfair and unreasonable to subsequently allow alcohol to be sold/served at establishments where smoking is allowed under the retail tobacco business exemption of the Clean Indoor Air Act.

For this reason, we request an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Melvin R. Thompson".

Melvin R. Thompson
Senior Vice President