



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
ST. MARY'S COUNTY DELEGATION

Testimony in Support of HB476 – St. Mary's County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class A License
Quota

February 13, 2025

Good Afternoon Chair Wilson and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

I am here today to present House Bill 476. The purpose of this bill is to alter the quota for Class A alcoholic beverage licenses that may be issued in the 8th Election District of St. Mary's County, an area which is becoming oversaturated by liquor stores.

St. Mary's County has 9 Election Districts varying in size and population and the 8th Election District – the Bay District - is the most populated with 41,441 people in 49.6 square miles. Compared to Election District 4 - the Chaptico District - with 10,610 people in 50.7 square miles, the Bay District is densely populated. Much of this population is concentrated within a 3-mile radius.

Currently, the quota for these licenses is based on population density and allows for a liquor store for every 1,350 people in the district. While the original number may provide an appropriate means to properly disperse these stores in rural areas, it is just simply not appropriate for the population boom in small areas of St. Mary's.

The bill was requested by the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County and is supported by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Delegation. I respectfully request the Committee's favorable report on House Bill 476.