



GARRETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Board of License Commissioners - Liquor Control Board

203 South Fourth Street, Room 208, Oakland, Maryland 21550
garrettcountrymd.gov/liquor-control-board –
Phone 301-334-1925 – Fax 301-334-5023
liquorcontrolboard@garrettcountrymd.gov

Board Members

David L. Moe
Michael J. Fratz
Lisa M. Herman

February 19, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 0824 – Prohibition on Class A Licenses for Chain Stores, Supermarkets, and Discount Houses - Repeal

Dear Chair Beidle:

On behalf of the Garrett County Board of License Commissioners (Board), this office recommends you oppose Senate Bill 0824 – Prohibition on Class A Licenses for Chain Stores, Supermarkets, and Discount Houses - Repeal as written.

The Board opposes SB 0824 since it creates an exception for Class A licenses to be issued to chain stores, supermarkets, and discount houses. The Board would like to point out that this proposed legislation will negatively impact small family-owned businesses in Garrett County. Currently, in our rural county there are approximately twenty-five "chain store" businesses in operation who are prohibited from holding an alcoholic beverage license. These stores are predominantly owned and operated by large corporations. Garrett County currently has 79 licensed establishments. If the "chain store" businesses were licensed, that would be an increase of approximately 30 % more licenses in the county. The current small business owners will be negatively hit hard financially by such an influx of "chain stores" being permitted to sell alcoholic beverages.

The Garrett County Board of License Commissioners urge you to oppose Senate Bill 0824. Thank you for the attention you may give to this legislative issue.

Sincerely,

Deborah R. Owston,
Administrator of the Board of License Commissioners

cc: Senator Mike McCay
Delegate Jim Hinebaugh, Jr.