



Senate Bill 910

Support for Senate Bill 910—Caroline County—Alcoholic Beverages—Multiple Event Licenses

Position: **FAV**

Date: **February 21, 2025**

To: **Finance**

On behalf of the Caroline County Commissioners, we **strongly support Senate Bill 910**, which establishes a **Rural Special Event Venue Beer, Wine, and Liquor License** and modifies the existing Multiple Event License regulations to allow non-profit holders to store alcohol on-site between events. This bill provides a much-needed solution for our local event venues, enabling them to operate efficiently, boost tourism, and support small businesses while maintaining responsible alcohol regulations. We are not only seeking to establish a new special event venue license but also to allow multiple event license holders (non-profits) to store alcohol on the premises between their events. Currently, only fire companies that hold a multiple event license can store alcohol.

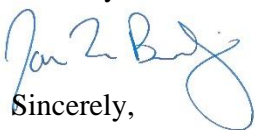
These are two different licenses—a new license category for a rural special event venue and a change to the existing multiple event license regulations for alcohol storage.

Currently, Caroline County does not have a liquor license class specifically for event venues. Instead, venues must rely on licenses intended for restaurants, bars, clubs, or package stores, which are often costly, time-consuming, and not well-suited to their needs. SB 910 addresses this gap by creating a tailored license that allows event venues to legally serve alcohol without unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles.

Additionally, the bill seeks to amend the current Multiple Event License regulations. Presently, only fire companies holding a multiple event license are permitted to store alcohol on-site between events. We believe this privilege should be extended to all qualifying non-profit organizations that hold a multiple event license. Allowing these organizations to store alcohol on-premises will facilitate smoother operations, reduce logistical challenges, and improve event planning.

This legislation ensures responsible alcohol service by requiring secure storage, accurate record-keeping, and alcohol awareness training. Furthermore, its tiered fee structure makes licensing affordable for both small and large venues, allowing them to select an option that aligns with their business model.

For rural counties like Caroline, event venues are more than just businesses—they are economic drivers that create jobs, attract visitors, and support local vendors. SB 910 is essential to their growth and success. We urge your support for this legislation, which will fill a critical licensing gap and strengthen our local economy.


Sincerely,

J. Travis Breeding, President

