

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING

501 Court Lane, P.O. Box 26

Cambridge, Maryland 21613

(410) 228-1700

GEORGE L. PFEFFER, JR., PRESIDENT

MIKE DETMER, VICE PRESIDENT

ROB KRAMER, JR.

WILLIAM V. NICHOLS

RICKY C. TRAVERS

JERRY JONES
COUNTY MANAGER

MACLEOD LAW GROUP LLC
COUNTY ATTORNEY



February 11, 2025

The Honorable C.T Wilson, Delegate
Economic Matters Committee
231 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: LOS – HB564 Dorchester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Venue Beer, Wine, and Liquor License

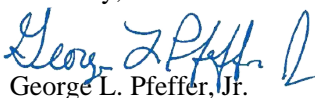
Dear Chairman Wilson and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for House Bill 564, entitled “Dorchester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Venue Beer, Wine, and Liquor License” for the purpose of establishing in Dorchester County a venue beer, wine, and liquor license that authorizes the holder to sell or serve beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption during an event where food is served; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Dorchester County to issue the license to a nonprofit or for-profit retail business that hosts private or public events at a venue that meets certain criteria; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Dorchester County to issue an alcoholic beverages license to an establishment that is within a certain distance of a place of worship or school with the written consent of the place of worship or school; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Dorchester County.

House Bill 564 seeks to introduce a new licensing option for businesses in Dorchester County, aligning with similar licenses available in other Maryland counties. The Venue Beer, Wine, and Liquor License outlined in HB564 represents an important step forward in ensuring Dorchester County remains competitive and attractive to both current and prospective business owners. By providing this licensing option, the County can foster growth in its business sector, particularly in industries related to hospitality and event management, which are vital to our local economy. This bill addresses the evolving needs of business owners, who are seeking more flexible licensing options to serve their patrons responsibly while enhancing their offerings. Introducing this license will not only encourage new business ventures but also help retain existing businesses that might otherwise consider relocating to neighboring counties with similar opportunities. Furthermore, with the addition of amendments, this bill will also provide greater flexibility regarding setback restrictions, allowing for more properties within these cultural and economic hubs to qualify for an alcoholic beverage license while maintaining responsible oversight. By making this change, Dorchester County will encourage business growth and enhance the viability of its arts and entertainment sector. This amendment aligns with the county’s ongoing efforts to foster a thriving local economy while balancing community interests.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of support. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Council’s Office at (410) 228-1700.

Sincerely,


George L. Pfeffer, Jr.

President

cc: The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Senator
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate
The Honorable Tom Hutchinson, Delegate

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February 11, 2025

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

RE: LOS – SB802 Dorchester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Venue Beer, Wine, and Liquor License

Dear Chairman Beidle and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for Senate Bill 802, entitled “Dorchester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Venue Beer, Wine, and Liquor License” for the purpose of establishing in Dorchester County a venue beer, wine, and liquor license that authorizes the holder to sell or serve beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption during an event where food is served; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Dorchester County to issue the license to a nonprofit or for-profit retail business that hosts private or public events at a venue that meets certain criteria; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Dorchester County to issue an alcoholic beverages license to an establishment that is within a certain distance of a place of worship or school with the written consent of the place of worship or school; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Dorchester County.

Senate Bill 802 seeks to introduce a new licensing option for businesses in Dorchester County, aligning with similar licenses available in other Maryland counties. The Venue Beer, Wine, and Liquor License outlined in SB802 represents an important step forward in ensuring Dorchester County remains competitive and attractive to both current and prospective business owners. By providing this licensing option, the County can foster growth in its business sector, particularly in industries related to hospitality and event management, which are vital to our local economy. This bill addresses the evolving needs of business owners, who are seeking more flexible licensing options to serve their patrons responsibly while enhancing their offerings. Introducing this license will not only encourage new business ventures but also help retain existing businesses that might otherwise consider relocating to neighboring counties with similar opportunities. Furthermore, with the addition of amendments, this bill will also provide greater flexibility regarding setback restrictions, allowing for more properties within these cultural and economic hubs to qualify for an alcoholic beverage license while maintaining responsible oversight. By making this change, Dorchester County will encourage business growth and enhance the viability of its arts and entertainment sector. This amendment aligns with the county’s ongoing efforts to foster a thriving local economy while balancing community interests.

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