

SB 0934
FEBRUARY 21, 2025 at 1:00 PM



GARRETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Board of License Commissioners - Liquor Control Board

203 South Fourth Street, Room 208, Oakland, Maryland 21550
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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 0934 – Premium Cigar Lounge License – Establishment (Maryland Premium Cigar Lounge Act of 2025)

Dear Chair Beidle:

On behalf of the Garrett County Board of License Commissioners (Board), this office recommends you oppose Senate Bill 0934 Premium Cigar Lounge License – Establishment (Maryland Premium Cigar Lounge Act of 2025) as written.

Although in general, the Board opposes SB 0934 since it creates an alcoholic beverage license that allows smoking inside a licensed premise, they recognize that the bill may be approved. For that matter, the Board would like the Senate and House to take into consideration that there are currently jurisdictions that have specific one-time "Issuing Fees" for new licenses throughout their Title of the Alcoholic Beverages Article. For this reason, Garrett County would request to be excluded from the bill, or at the very least an amendment be made specifically for Garrett County. The amendment would allow for an exclusive subsection just for Garrett County that states "The Board shall charge a one-time issuing fee for a new license in an amount equal to the annual license fee."

The Garrett County Board of License Commissioners urge you to oppose Senate Bill 0934 as written or consider it with an amendment to allow Garrett County to charge a one-time "Issuing Fee" for a new Premium Cigar Lounge License. Thank you for the attention you may give to this legislative issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah R. Owston".

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

cc: Senator Mike McCay
Delegate Jim Hinebaugh, Jr.