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STATE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
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TO: The Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Michelle Wirzberger, Esq., Deputy Executive Secretary

RE: Senate Bill 939 Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – Authorizations and Revisions

DATE: February 21, 2025

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Hayes and members of the Senate Finance Committee, please be advised that the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City Supports Senate Bill 939.

Senate Bill 939 provides for the creation of a Class “C” license in the 2500 block of West North Avenue if the applicant abides by certain provisions such as the establishment of an MOU with the Greater Mondawmin Coordinating Council; the creation of a Class “B” license on in the unit block of south Carrollton Avenue if the applicant executes an MOU with the Hollins Roundhouse Association and the Board of Liquor License Commissioners waives the minimum seating requirement.

In addition, Senate Bill 939 authorizes the Board of Liquor License Commissioners (the Board) to adopt regulations articulating the process an entity must follow in order to apply for a Class “C” per diem license. It also establishes a fee of \$250 that must be paid if a per diem application is submitted less than two (2) weeks before the scheduled event requiring the per diem license. An amendment being offered will allow the Board to determine how many per diem licenses may be issued to a person for the same location within a calendar year. This provision will reduce the likelihood that this type of license can be used inappropriately and/or in a manner that circumvents various restrictions currently in law.

Finally, Senate Bill 939 expands the area within the 40th legislative district, wherein certain classes of licenses must operate only from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm.

This bill allows for a variety of alcoholic beverage options while also allowing the Board to develop much needed standards to ensure that per diem licenses are being utilized in a responsible manner. Therefore, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 939.