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Legislative District 40
Baltimore City

—
Vice Chair
Finance Committee



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Executive Nominations Committee

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Unemployment Insurance Oversight

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Antonio in Support of Senate Bill 939 Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – Authorizations and Revisions

Dear Chair Beidle and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am pleased to present Senate Bill 939 – Baltimore City Alcoholic Beverages – Authorizations and Revisions with amendments. This legislation serves several key purposes aimed at improving the licensing process, fostering economic growth, and enhancing the vibrancy of Baltimore City.

Specifically, SB 939:

- Creates a Per Diem License Structure – Establishes a Per Diem License with a \$250 application fee for submissions made at least two weeks before an event. The bill also sets clear regulations for the application and approval process to ensure efficiency and consistency.
- Authorizes a Class C Beer and Light Wine License for Coppin State University – Allows the university to sell beer and wine at games, events, and other campus activities, making Coppin State more competitive in attracting events while enhancing the overall event experience.
- Grants a Class C Beer and Wine License to the Groomatory Barbershop – Located in the 800 block of North Howard Street, this measure expands service offerings and supports small business growth.
- Broadens Existing Boundaries on Liquor Store Hours – Adjusts operating hours in areas with high instances of violence, particularly nonfatal shootings and homicides, to enhance public safety and community well-being.

- Establishes a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor License for Small Restaurants – Permits certain restaurants with fewer than 75 seats to obtain a liquor license, including Black Cat Bakery and Cafe on the even side of South Carrollton Avenue.
- Streamlines the One-Day Licensing Process – Creates a well-regulated, transparent, and efficient approval and revocation process for one-day licenses. The bill grants the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners the authority to develop a clear vetting procedure and revoke applications when necessary, ensuring public safety while maintaining fairness and consistency.

This legislation promotes economic equity by providing long-overdue opportunities to historically disenfranchised communities. It supports local businesses, attracts tourism and reinvestment, and fosters greater civic engagement—all of which are critical to Baltimore City’s broader revitalization efforts.

Furthermore, allowing Coppin State University to obtain a Class C Beer, Wine, and Liquor License will create a more dynamic and vibrant corridor. This change will enhance sporting events, dining experiences, and community engagement, contributing to sustained economic growth in the 40th District.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 939 with the sponsor amendments.

Respectfully,



Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District – MD