

SB 304_Sen. McCray Testimony .pdf

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Position: FAV

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Health and Human Services

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes On Senate Bill 304

Bill Title: Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – 45th Alcoholic Beverages District – Licenses

Committee: Finance

Hearing Date: February 20, 2025

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I write in strong support of Senate Bill 304, a critical step in reforming Baltimore City’s alcohol licensing structure within the 45th Alcoholic Beverages District. This bill is not just a regulatory change—it’s an opportunity to drive economic growth, improve public safety, and support community revitalization in an area that has faced years of disinvestment.

SB 304 allows the Board of License Commissioners to issue a Class C beer, wine, and liquor license for businesses in the 400 block of East Oliver Street. This area, long neglected, stands to benefit from this carefully crafted legislation. The bill sets clear guidelines for responsible alcohol service, limiting it to seated patrons in outdoor spaces or designated courtyards, and banning off-premises sales to avoid the issues that can arise from liquor store proliferation.

Furthermore, SB 304 requires that businesses entering the area form a memorandum of understanding with the Greenmount West Community Association. This ensures that local residents have a direct role in the development process and can influence the types of businesses operating in their neighborhoods.

The bill also establishes clear operational hours for alcohol service, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. These hours strike a balance, allowing businesses to operate while maintaining a safe and peaceful environment for residents in the evening.

SB 304 provides a solid framework for responsible business development, benefiting both entrepreneurs and the community. It promotes growth while preserving the integrity of the neighborhood. I urge the Committee to pass this bill and support the revitalization of Baltimore's 45th District.

Continued Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cory V. McCray
45th District