

# **HB566 - SB869 - Dorchester County - Alcoholic Beve**

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Position: FAV

**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: Letter of Support – House Bill 566 Dorchester County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Fees

Dear Chairman Wilson and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support of House Bill 566, entitled “Dorchester County – Alcoholic Beverages Licenses – Fees” for the purpose of altering licensing fees for certain alcoholic beverages licenses in Dorchester County; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Dorchester County to charge an application or transfer fee under certain circumstances; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages license, application, and transfer fees in Dorchester County.

House Bill 566 is critical in securing adequate funding for the Dorchester County Board of License Commissioners, enabling essential improvements in legal services, staffing, and advertising. Dorchester County has not raised its fees in over a decade, and despite this, our fees remain competitive—and in some cases, considerably lower—than those of neighboring jurisdictions. The proposed adjustments will not only sustain the operations of the Liquor Board but will also enhance the education and support available to license holders.

Maintaining a well-funded regulatory framework is essential for promoting compliance and fostering a business-friendly environment. Even with these fee adjustments, Dorchester County will continue to be an attractive location for both existing and prospective businesses. By ensuring sufficient resources to effectively administer and oversee licensing, this bill will support the county’s economic stability and responsible growth. The Dorchester County Council believes that this legislation is an essential step toward sustaining a fair and balanced licensing system. Therefore, we urge you to look favorably upon this bill and support its passage.

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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COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 11, 2025

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

RE: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 869 Dorchester County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Fees

Dear Chairman Beidle and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support of Senate Bill 869, entitled “Dorchester County – Alcoholic Beverages Licenses – Fees” for the purpose of altering licensing fees for certain alcoholic beverages licenses in Dorchester County; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Dorchester County to charge an application or transfer fee under certain circumstances; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages license, application, and transfer fees in Dorchester County.

Senate Bill 869 is critical in securing adequate funding for the Dorchester County Board of License Commissioners, enabling essential improvements in legal services, staffing, and advertising. Dorchester County has not raised its fees in over a decade, and despite this, our fees remain competitive—and in some cases, considerably lower—than those of neighboring jurisdictions. The proposed adjustments will not only sustain the operations of the Liquor Board but will also enhance the education and support available to license holders.

Maintaining a well-funded regulatory framework is essential for promoting compliance and fostering a business-friendly environment. Even with these fee adjustments, Dorchester County will continue to be an attractive location for both existing and prospective businesses. By ensuring sufficient resources to effectively administer and oversee licensing, this bill will support the county’s economic stability and responsible growth. The Dorchester County Council believes that this legislation is an essential step toward sustaining a fair and balanced licensing system. Therefore, we urge you to look favorably upon this bill and support its passage.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George L. Pfeffer, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

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