

Testimony for an Unfavorable Position of HB 1303

Members

The proposed legislation HB1303 will inflict more problems for our state at an expense we cannot afford.

National statistics show the largest cause of illegal sales of alcohol is accessibility, that's right accessibility.

The same national statistic shows that states with alcohol sales at big box store have 38% in underage sales compare to 14% in states with privatized licenses stores. Big box store at 38% compared to private retailers at 14% is a 171 % increase of underage or illegal alcohol sales our communities do not need.

HB1303 will come at an enormous cost, of 4.7 million dollars a year... 4.7 million dollars. A Maryland alcohol enforcement officer make just over 65,000.00 dollars a year, with the proposed increase of retailers from HB1303 there will be a demand for more liquor enforcement officers. Per the population parameters of the state, we will need to add an average of three officers per county, which will total up to 4.7 million in salaries each year if HB1303 is passed.

The proposed legislation will also cause increase in unemployment as it bankrupts small business across the state, as cutting the supply and demand pie too small it will over saturate the market area making it impossible for the small business retailer the ability to compete.

The writers of the 1978 Alcohol law knew we needed a law that could control alcohol sales, protect the community, and balance commerce.

Lastly, Id like to leave you all with a saying my grandfather told us,

If it ain't broke don't fix it.

Regards

A. John Greenwell

