

TO: House Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Matt Peterson, Baltimore County

RE: HB1303 - Alcoholic Beverages - Class A License - Retail Establishments
(Alcoholic Beverages Modernization Act of 2026)

March 4, 2026

Position: SUPPORT

Dear members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

As a member of Maryland's Jewish community, I have a particular interest in this legislation that goes beyond general convenience. Kosher-certified wine and beer are an important part of Jewish observance, used in Shabbat celebrations, holidays, and lifecycle events throughout the year. Unfortunately, independent liquor stores in Maryland frequently carry limited or no Kosher wine selections, leaving observant Jewish families with few local options.

Larger grocery stores, by contrast, have the purchasing power and shelf space to stock a meaningful variety of Kosher-certified products. Permitting beer and wine sales in grocery stores would meaningfully expand access to these products for Jewish families across Maryland, many of whom currently must travel significant distances or order online to meet their religious needs.

Maryland is one of only four states that still prohibits grocery stores from selling beer and wine, and nearly 80% of Marylanders support changing this policy. For my community, this reform is not simply about convenience, it is about equal and practical access to products that are central to our religious life.

Please support HB 1303.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Peterson

Pikesville, MD