

MARLON AMPREY
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DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Economic Matters Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 4, 2026

Chair Valderrama
Vice Chair Charkoudian
House Economic Matters Committee
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

FAV Written Testimony for HB1303 Alcoholic Beverages Modernization Act of 2026

Dear Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

HB1303, the Alcoholic Beverages Modernization Act of 2026, updates Maryland's alcoholic beverages law to create a clear, regulated pathway for food retailers, pharmacies, or retail service stations to obtain a Class A beer or Class A beer and wine license under certain conditions.

Under current Maryland law, a Class A license is generally limited to dedicated liquor stores and beer/wine specialty shops. Section 4 of this bill establishes detailed eligibility requirements a retail establishment must meet to qualify for an existing Class A license to be transferred or granted to them. A food retailer must offer a broad range of food products across multiple categories, accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and meet a minimum square footage requirement. Requirements for pharmacies and retail service stations are also clearly defined, ensuring that only select, regulated businesses are eligible.

This bill creates a structured process for obtaining a license. A qualifying retailer located within 3,000 feet of an existing Class A license holder may offer to purchase an existing Class A license. If the license holder declines, the retail establishment may then apply to the local licensing board. The bill provides direction to licensing boards to consider traditional licensing factors and will issue the appropriate license based on what is available in the jurisdiction.

Importantly, HB1303 includes safeguards to ensure responsible alcohol sales. License holders will complete approved alcohol awareness training and employ security personnel in the area dedicated to alcohol sales. The bill limits hours of sale to between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and prohibits self-scanning checkout systems, delivery of alcoholic beverages, exterior alcohol advertising, and the sale of certain products, such as individual cans or bottles of mixed cocktails or malt beverages of 40 ounces or less.

By clearly defining eligible establishments, outlining the licensing process, and incorporating operational requirements, this bill modernizes Maryland's Class A licensing system while maintaining regulatory oversight.

I urge a favorable report on HB1303.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marlon Amprey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marlon" being the most prominent part.

Delegate Marlon Amprey
40th Legislative District of Maryland