

March 2nd, 2026

TO: House Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Peter Bodde, Baltimore City

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

POSITION: Support

Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 1303 Alcoholic Beverages - Class A License - Retail Establishments (Alcoholic Beverages Modernization Act of 2026) and to respectfully ask for your favorable consideration.

Convenience is something every Maryland resident deserves. The ability to pick up beer and wine during a routine grocery run saves time that families and working individuals simply cannot afford to waste. Maryland's current restriction feels out of step with the realities of everyday modern life.

I have lived in several different parts of the country where purchasing beer and wine at the grocery store was an unremarkable convenience — one I would very much like to enjoy here as well.

It is also worth noting that this change would not spell the end for independent liquor stores. These businesses have and will continue to set themselves apart through personalized service, expert knowledge, and carefully curated selections. This legislation simply gives consumers greater flexibility and eliminates an unnecessary extra errand.

This is a commonsense reform that puts efficiency, practicality, and consumer choice first — which is why I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1303

Thank you,

Peter Bodde

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