



Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association
P.O. Box 711 ★ Annapolis, MD 21404
410-693-2226 ★ www.mapda.com

TO: House Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association

DATE: March 4, 2026

RE: **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT – HOUSE BILL 1303** – Alcoholic Beverages – Class A License – Food Establishments

On behalf of Maryland’s convenience store marketers and energy distributors, MAPDA urges the committee to issue a favorable committee report on HB1303 with the amendment described below.

Simply, this legislation would allow a “food establishment” as defined in the bill to obtain a Class A license to sell beer and/or wine.

As the legislature continues considering the idea of expanding the ability of retailers like convenience stores to sell beer and wine, our industry only asks for the opportunity to compete for these licenses. Our stores serve thousands of customers each day to meet their daily needs – fuel, coffee, snacks, fresh food, and other items including many stores which meet the needs of SNAP recipients.

Allowing these retailers to sell beer and wine, if they choose, is a simple matter of fairness. Many of our stores serve as the primary grocer in their communities. Passing HB1303 allows them to add a new source of revenue so they can expand their offerings, provide better service, and raise wages and benefits of their employees.

Should the committee choose to move forward with the legislation, we ask the square footage requirement on **Page 3, Line 3 be amended to 2,000 square feet**. This important change would allow for legacy locations to compete for a Class A license. The other requirements – food product offerings, SNAP program participation, and distancing requirements – would remain.

We would also request the committee to **remove the requirement of sworn security personnel on Page 4, Lines 13-14**. Current liquor licensees do *not* have this requirement. It creates liability concerns and cost implications.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge the Economic Matters Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT COMMITTEE REPORT on HB1303**.

Feeding and fueling the economy through gas, coffee, food, heating oil and propane.

MAPDA is an association of convenience stores and energy distributors in Maryland, Delaware & the District of Columbia.