



## WMDA/CAR Service Station and Automotive Repair Association

Chair: Kriselda Valderama and member of Economics Matters Committee

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

Position: Favorable with Amendments (3)

My name is Kirk McCauley, my employer is WMDA/CAR, we represent service stations, convenience stores, and repair facilities across the state as a non-profit trade group established in 1937.

#### Amendments Requested:

- Remove - Page 2 line 25 (III) HAS A MINIMUM OF 4,000 SQUARE FEET.
- Remove – Page 4 lines 13&14 SHALL EMPLOY SWORN SECURITY PERSONNEL FOR THE PUBLIC 13 AREA OF THE STORE DEDICATED TO THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.
- Remove -Page 3 lines 6&7 AND DIESEL FUEL OR HAS ON-SITE ELECTRIC CHARGING CAPABILITIES FOR A 6 MINIMUM OF SIX MOTOR VEHICLES SIMULTANEOUSLY.

WMDA is in favor with amendments, “All Retail Business Modernization Act of 2026 – Leave No Business Behind” would be a better name.

Retailing beer and wine should not be a monopoly exclusive to current liquor retailers nor big box and grocery stores. Small business is what drives our economy, it makes no sense to exclude those retailers, should they choose to meet all other requirements of HB1303. Our stores are already in the neighborhood. While this would not be for all, the opportunity would be there for retailers that wanted to sell beer and wine and improve facilities to meet requirements.

The bill as written with security guard would remove any incentive to obtain a Class A License for a small retailer and a lot of big retailers. EV charging sites for 6 vehicles, this requirement looks like it was tailored for large locations only and is discriminatory toward small business as is 4000 sq. ft. Most current retailers of beer and wine do not have that Square Footage. Small business owners put their heart and soul into their business. Bills like this favor Wall Marts, Costco, and large retailers in general and blocks out small business as legislators pick winners and losers, That is Not Right.

Big box and grocery stores sell most of the products my members sell, including gasoline, why would small businesses be excluded? If you look at ATCC annual report for FY2025 there is hundreds of brewery's and winery's registered in Maryland [2025 ATCC Tax Annual Report](#) . They struggle with obtaining shelf space in stores, we can help that and give Maryland beer and wine a place to live.

Current sales of beer and wine by convenient retailers have not been a problem in counties where allowed and amending this bill with other requirements intact would benefit consumers, retailers and our beer and wine makers.

WMDA/CAR asks for a favorable vote with amendments on HB1303.

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