

**HB1303**

March 2, 2026

TO: House Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Brian O'Connor

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 support HB 1303 and respectfully request a favorable report.

This bill is not about convenience in the abstract — it is about time. For working Marylanders balancing jobs, family, and full schedules, small inefficiencies add up. Maryland law requires a separate trip and transaction to purchase beer or wine — items that are part of normal grocery shopping in most other states. That extra step no longer reflects how people live.

HB 1303 is a practical modernization. It gives residents some time back while preserving competition. Independent liquor stores will continue to compete and succeed on service, expertise, and selection.

In my neighborhood, we rely on our independent liquor store precisely because of the convenience it offers. Its value is the time it saves — being able to walk over rather than drive across town on a busy evening. This legislation is not about stamping out small businesses; it simply removes an unnecessary barrier and allows stores to compete on merit.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 1303.

Sincerely,

*Brian O'Connor*

Brian O'Connor

Upper Fells Point, Baltimore MD