

SB0075

February 18th, 2026

TO: Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Lauren P. Sigwart, Southgate/Anne Arundel County

RE: Senate Bill 75 - Alcoholic Beverages - Class A License - Food Retailers

POSITION: Support

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee I am writing to request your support for Senate Bill 75 - Alcoholic Beverages - Class A License - Food Retailers (SB0075).

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill.

I'm writing as a Maryland resident who wants the ability to buy beer and wine at the same place I buy groceries. In most states, this is normal and uncontroversial. In Maryland, it still requires a separate trip — and often, for those who live near state lines, that means driving into Virginia or Delaware to do it.

That's not just inconvenient — it means Maryland businesses lose sales and Maryland loses tax revenue.

This issue isn't about expanding access irresponsibly. It's about modernizing a system that feels outdated. Grocery stores already check IDs. They already operate under strict compliance standards. They already manage regulated products. There's no reason beer and wine can't be handled with the same care and oversight.

There's also a broader economic impact to consider. Grocery stores operate on very thin margins. Allowing beer and wine sales would give them an additional revenue stream that can help stabilize stores that might otherwise struggle or close. In communities already facing limited grocery options, that matters. Stronger store performance can mean fewer closures and more incentive for new grocery stores to open in underserved areas. If we want to support food access and keep full-

service grocery stores in Maryland communities, this is a practical step in that direction.

For working families, busy parents, seniors, and anyone juggling a full schedule, having to make multiple stops for basic purchases just doesn't make sense anymore. Allowing beer and wine sales in grocery stores would make everyday life a little simpler while supporting Maryland businesses.

I also understand that local liquor stores are an important part of many communities. This change should be implemented thoughtfully and fairly. But maintaining outdated restrictions that push customers — and revenue — across state lines doesn't ultimately protect Maryland's long-term economic health.

Maryland is innovative in so many ways. Updating our alcohol laws to match the majority of the country feels like a practical, common-sense step forward.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you support this bill and give it a favorable report on **SB0075**.

Thank you for your service to our state.

Lauren P. Sigwart

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