

February 17th, 2026

TO: Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Jonathon Rowland, Baltimore City

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).

Maryland's prohibition of beer and wine sales at local grocery stores is holding our communities back. Our leaders should be doing everything within their power to improve conditions for grocery stores that offer a variety of foods, products, and services to Marylanders. Unfortunately, the existing prohibition on beer and wine sales makes it harder for grocery stores to operate, especially considering the razor-thin margins that grocery retailers operate at.

Allowing beer and wine to be sold at grocery stores is one meaningful way legislators can help to prevent grocery store closures while incentivising the opening of new grocery stores. In communities across Maryland, we have neighborhoods that lack access to grocery stores with fresh food - it is long past time for us to work together to address and solve this problem.

This is also a critical consumer convenience issue. Marylanders should enjoy the same convenience that 46 other states currently enjoy by having beer and wine sales in grocery stores.

Please support Senate Bill 75.

-Jonathon Rowland

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