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2011-D COMMERCE PARK DR.
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

(410) 222-1148
FAX: (410) 222-1810

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Date: February 18, 2026

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Senate Finance Committee

RE: Senate Bill 400 – Written Testimony (Support)

The Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners respectfully submits this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 400.

This legislation modernizes the entertainment permit structure by replacing outdated terminology with clearly defined tiers that reflect the actual scope of activity at licensed establishments. The proposal maintains the existing fee structure while providing a consistent regulatory framework that improves clarity for licensees, enforcement personnel, and the community.

The enclosed summary provides the operational and fiscal details for the Committee's consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. Aronson'.

Edward I. Aronson
Executive Director
Board of License Commissioners
for Anne Arundel County

SENATE BILL 400: ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT TIERS

SUBJECT: Modernization of Entertainment Permits

LEGISLATIVE INTENT: This proposal modernizes the entertainment permit structure to address confusion caused by outdated terminology—specifically the tier labeled "Dancing," which technically covers *any* legal form of entertainment. The new framework renames the tiers to accurately reflect the scope of activity, creating a clearer distinction between standard entertainment and venues with permanent dance floors and stages.

PROPOSED PERMIT TIERS:

Tier I: Background Entertainment Permit

- **Authorized Activity:** Operation of piped-in background music, recorded music, and unlimited television screens.

Tier II: General Entertainment Permit

- **Authorized Activity:** Includes all Tier I privileges, plus:
 - Live music (limited to a maximum of four musicians)
 - Disc Jockey (DJ) services
 - Trivia games and Karaoke

Tier III: Full Entertainment Permit

- **Authorized Activity:** Includes all Tier I and II privileges, plus:
 - Utilization of a permanent dance floor
 - Designated stage area
 - Floor shows and other forms of legal entertainment

FISCAL IMPACT: None. All annual fees remain unchanged.