

SB0075

February 17th, 2026

TO: Senate Finance Committee

FROM: [Name, Neighborhood / 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).

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 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.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on **SB0075**.

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POSITION: Support

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As you consider updates to Maryland's alcohol laws, I urge you to support SB0075, that would allow beer and wine sales in local grocery stores. Maryland families already juggle work, school, caregiving, and countless responsibilities. Forcing residents to make separate trips for beer or wine is an unnecessary inconvenience that most other Americans do not face.

Maryland is one of only four states that still prohibit grocery stores from selling beer and wine. Recent polling indicates that nearly 80% of Marylanders support changing this policy because it simply makes shopping easier and more efficient. One-stop shopping saves time, reduces travel, and better reflects the realities of modern family life.

This commonsense reform would bring our state in line with the vast majority of the country and improve everyday life for Marylanders. I respectfully ask for your support.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on **SB0075**.

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As one of only four states that prohibit grocery stores from selling beer and wine, Maryland is maintaining a restriction that no longer reflects today's retail environment. Grocery stores face intense competition and extremely tight operating margins. Allowing them to sell beer and wine would provide an important revenue stream that could help stabilize existing stores and encourage new investment in localities across Maryland.

This issue is especially important in rural communities and underserved areas, where grocery store closures can leave residents with limited access to fresh food and essential goods. By modernizing our licensing structure, we can support the long-term viability of food retailers and improve access to fresh food options for the numerous neighborhoods, towns and localities that make up our state.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on **SB0075**.

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Grocery stores are economic anchors in our communities across Maryland. They create local jobs, generate tax revenue, support nearby small businesses, and increase access to fresh food. When a grocery store closes, the economic and social ripple effects can be devastating. This is particularly true for working-class neighborhoods and rural areas.

Allowing grocery stores to sell beer and wine is a sensible way to make it easier for them to operate and remain viable. At the same time, experience in the 46 states where this is already permitted demonstrates that independently owned liquor stores can continue to thrive by offering curated selections, knowledgeable service, and unique products.

This legislation supports economic growth without eliminating opportunity for existing retailers, which is why I enthusiastically request a favorable report on **SB0075**.

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Convenience matters. When residents can complete their grocery shopping in a single trip, they save valuable time that can be spent with family, at work, or in their communities. Maryland's current prohibition creates unnecessary inconvenience and no longer reflects the realities of modern life.

Allowing beer and wine sales in grocery stores would not eliminate independent liquor stores, which can continue to distinguish themselves through selection and service. Instead, it would simply give consumers more flexibility and reduce redundant errands.

This commonsense reform prioritizes efficiency, consumer choice, and practicality which is why I am formally requesting a favorable report on **SB0075**.

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For Marylanders, time is one of our most limited resources. Between work schedules, school activities, and caregiving responsibilities, efficiency matters. Requiring residents to make a separate trip to purchase beer or wine adds unnecessary inconvenience to an already busy calendar.

Allowing grocery stores to sell beer and wine would create a true one-stop shopping experience. Marylanders would be joining residents from 46 other states across the nation should they be allowed to complete their weekly shopping in a single visit, reducing travel time, traffic congestion, and fuel costs. This simple modernization would make daily life more manageable for thousands of Marylanders.

Again, most states already permit this convenience. It is time for Maryland to align with modern consumer expectations and eliminate an outdated barrier that complicates routine errands.

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In many rural and underserved communities, residents must travel significant distances for basic necessities. Requiring an additional stop at a separate store to purchase beer or wine creates extra travel time and added inconvenience, particularly for seniors and working families.

Allowing grocery stores to sell beer and wine would simplify errands and reduce unnecessary trips. This reform would be especially impactful in areas where store options are limited and transportation may be a challenge.

Updating this policy would demonstrate a commitment to practical, commonsense governance by removing barriers that complicate daily life without providing meaningful public benefit.

For these reasons I am formally requesting a favorable report on **SB0075**.

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