

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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Senate Bill 807 – Alcoholic Beverages - Class 8 Farm Brewery and Class 10 Farm Distillery Licenses

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 807. This bill would support Maryland small businesses by establishing a new Class 10 Farm Distillery License and revising provisions of law governing the existing Class 8 Farm Brewery License.

This bill requires Class 8 Farm Breweries to be agribusinesses engaged in the production, showcasing, preparation, and sale of farm products and actively engaged in agritourism by exposing the public to farming and value-added farming practices. The bill also removes a very specific list of what foods can be sold or served at a farm brewery and instead authorizes selling or serving any food using a licensed food truck or caterer or any cottage food prepared on the farm. This legislation will also allow farm breweries to host festivals, provide live music or other entertainment, and rent portions of the farm for functions or events, and permits the brewery to sell beer produced by another manufacturer in the State in addition to beer produced by the license holder.

The Class 10 Farm Distillery license this bill creates is similar to the existing Class 8 Farm Brewery license as amended by this bill. It can only be issued to the holder of a Class 8 Farm Brewery license, and requires the distilled spirits sold and delivered under this license to be manufactured with an ingredient from a Maryland agricultural product. The holder of a Class 10 Farm Distillery license is authorized to distill, rectify, bottle, or sell up to 100,000 gallons of brandy, rum, whiskey, alcohol, or neutral spirits each calendar year.

As I know you are aware, agritourism has become an important part of Maryland's agricultural landscape and expansion of these small businesses would provide greater opportunity for much-needed economic growth in our State. Through agritourism, these businesses can grow our economy while still protecting the rural landscapes that are so much a part of Maryland's heritage. Last year, this Committee passed legislation that I sponsored to ease the regulatory burden on agritourism businesses. I believe that this legislation is a continuation of these efforts and is consistent with other changes in law that we have made over the past several years to encourage the lasting success of agritourism businesses in Maryland and support our State's farmers.

I respectfully request a favorable report for Senate Bill 807. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bailey', written over a horizontal line.

Senator Jack Bailey