



Senate Bill 974

Caroline County – Alcoholic Beverages – Inspector

Position: FAV

Date: March 13, 2026

To: Rules

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Caroline County Commissioners respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 974. This legislation was introduced at the request of Caroline County to provide needed flexibility in how our local Alcoholic Beverages Inspector position is designated.

Currently, state law requires the County Codes Administrator to serve as the inspector for the Caroline County Board of License Commissioners. While the Codes Administrator has historically fulfilled this role, the responsibilities of that position have grown significantly over time as the county continues to expand its regulatory and permitting functions. Senate Bill 974 simply allows the Board of License Commissioners to either continue using the Codes Administrator or appoint another qualified individual to carry out these duties.

This change does not alter the authority of the Board or the enforcement of alcoholic beverage laws in Caroline County. Instead, it provides a practical administrative option that allows the county to ensure inspections and enforcement activities are handled efficiently and effectively. The Board would still define the inspector's responsibilities, and the position would continue to be funded through the county budget.

As a small rural county, flexibility in staffing is important for us to manage resources responsibly while maintaining strong oversight of alcohol licensing and compliance. Senate Bill 974 allows us to adapt as workloads change and ensures the Board of License Commissioners has the support needed to carry out its responsibilities.

For these reasons, the Caroline County Commissioners respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 974.

Sincerely,

J. Travis Breeding, President