



**MARYLAND STATE
LICENSED BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION**

150 E Main Street, Suite 104, Westminster, MD 21157

Senate Finance Committee

February 25, 2026

Senate Bill 623 – *Retail Tobacco Businesses and Establishment of a Premium Cigar Lounge
Alcoholic Beverages License (Maryland Premium Cigar Lounge Act of 2026)*

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

The Maryland State Licensed Beverage Association (MSLBA), which consists of approximately 850 Maryland businesses holding alcoholic beverage licenses (restaurants, bars, taverns, and package stores), **supports with amendment** Senate Bill 623.

Senate Bill 623 establishes an alcoholic beverage license that would be available to cigar lounges throughout the State, subject to certain limitations. MSLBA has traditionally opposed this legislation, but believes that this bill, with some additional safeguards added to it, strikes a reasonable balance and resolves the varying legal interpretations across various counties on whether cigar bars can obtain alcoholic beverage licenses.

MSLBA urges adoption of amendments that make clear that any license application under this statute is still subject to the normal procedures regarding the issuance of alcohol beverage licenses found in Title 4 of the Alcohol Beverage Article. These include the factors that a local liquor board must consider when issuing the license, provisions governing renewal of the license, and so forth. The bill implies that these provisions are applicable, given that the new language appears in this same title, but a cross-reference to that effect would make it clearer.

With amendments to this effect, MSLBA supports Senate Bill 623.

For more information call:

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