



TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance

DATE: February 20, 2026

POSITION: Unfavorable

BILL: SB 807

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) respectfully opposes SB 807. While we support the growth of Maryland's craft beverage industry, this bill effectively erodes the local authority that ensures those businesses are compatible with their surroundings.

For starters, the bill allows a Class 10 license holder to produce up to 100,000 gallons of spirits annually, contract with food trucks, and even host large festivals with no local oversight or input. These aren't "small" businesses.

Municipalities are responsible for the safety and quality of life of their residents. By granting the State Commission "exclusive regulatory authority" over these operations, SB 807 strips local governments of the ability to enforce community standards regarding large festivals, amplified music, and high-occupancy event venues.

Furthermore, SB 807 creates a rare and sweeping exemption to the requirement that alcoholic beverage licenses must comply with local zoning laws. Local roads and utility systems are planned based on predictable zoning. Allowing high-intensity commercial uses to bypass this process risks overwhelming local infrastructure—costs that ultimately fall back on municipal taxpayers rather than the developer.

Effective land-use planning is a delicate balance of economic growth and community stability. SB 807 tips that balance by prioritizing one industry over the established rights of every other business and resident in a community. The Maryland Municipal League believes that all commercial enterprises—regardless of the product they manufacture—should remain subject to the local standards that protect the public interest.

For these reasons, we respectfully request an unfavorable report on SB 807.

For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:

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