



Senate Bill 846

Worcester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Temporary To-Go Event Permit and Class C Per Diem Municipal To-Go Beer, Wine, and Liquor License

Position: **SUPPORT**

To: **Finance Committee**

Date: **February 18, 2026**

From: County Commissioners of Worcester County

On behalf of the Worcester County Commissioners, we respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 846. SB 846 creates a Temporary To-Go Event Permit and a Class C Per Diem Municipal To-Go Beer, Wine, and Liquor License in Worcester County.

This legislation serves as a carefully structured, event-specific tourism and economic development tool that municipalities may use to manage designated special event areas in a controlled and transparent manner. This framework has operated successfully in Wicomico County and has demonstrated that, when paired with clear regulations and local oversight, it enhances community events while maintaining public safety. SB 846 requires the Board of License Commissioners to adopt regulations addressing event area designation, hours of sale, age verification, approved containers, public notice, and security requirements.

The authority is temporary, geographically limited, and tied directly to municipal approval and Board oversight. For a rural, tourism-driven jurisdiction like Worcester County, Maryland's only oceanfront county, serving 54,000 residents and more than eight million visitors annually, this bill provides a safe, accountable tool to support local events, small businesses, and municipal economic activity without compromising enforcement standards.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 846.