

February 17th, 2026

TO: Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Jonathan Sandoval, Fulton, MD (Howard County)

RE: Senate Bill 75 - Alcoholic Beverages - Class A License - Food Retailers

POSITION: Support

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee I am writing to request your support for Senate Bill 75 - Alcoholic Beverages - Class A License - Food Retailers (SB0075).

Grocery stores are economic anchors in our communities across Maryland. They create local jobs, generate tax revenue, support nearby small businesses, and increase access to fresh food. When a grocery store closes, the economic and social ripple effects can be devastating. This is particularly true for working-class neighborhoods and rural areas.

Allowing grocery stores to sell beer and wine is a sensible way to make it easier for them to operate and remain viable. At the same time, experience in the 46 states where this is already permitted demonstrates that independently owned liquor stores can continue to thrive by offering curated selections, knowledgeable service, and unique products. The convenience for grocers to sell beer and wine is meaningful for young families like mine with limited time to run errands and ensure all of my families weekday and weekend needs are met. I still plan to visit my local liquor store like Fulton Liquors because I want to support local business owners who provide me with one of the best curated bourbon selections in my area. That business is not going away with grocer sales!

This legislation supports economic growth without eliminating opportunity for existing retailers, which is why I enthusiastically request a favorable report on **SB0075**.

Thank you,

Jonathan Sandoval

8524 Reservoir Rd.

Fulton, MD 20759