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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DELEGATION

Testimony in Support of SB 400
Anne Arundel County Alcoholic Beverages - Entertainment Permits

Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

SB 400 modernizes the entertainment permit structure by replacing outdated terminology with clear tiers (Background vs. General vs. Full Entertainment) to accurately reflect the scope of activity at licensed venues. It revises and renames various alcoholic beverages entertainment permits in Anne Arundel County as follows: (1) a music permit is renamed a background entertainment permit; (2) an entertainment permit is renamed a general entertainment permit; and (3) a dancing permit is renamed a full entertainment permit.

Background

Under current law, in Anne Arundel County, except for piped-in background music or one television screen, the holder of an alcoholic beverages license generally may not play music (including live music or music by a disc jockey), operate a karaoke machine, or allow dancing, floor shows, or any other similar type of entertainment on the licensed premises or on an adjacent property in which the licensee has ownership or control, unless the license holder is issued the appropriate entertainment permit authorizing the activity. The bill removes the prohibition on dancing for license holders without an entertainment permit.

Solution

SB 400 provides clarifying language and definitions to aid licensees or license requestors.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact on the State. The bill is not expected to materially affect Anne Arundel County finances or operations. There is minimal impact on small business.

Closing

SB 400 is limited in scope, fiscally disciplined, and consistent with the intent of existing law. A letter of support has been submitted by the Anne Arundel County Senate Delegation. Additionally, a letter of support has also been submitted by the Anne Arundel County Council.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 400.