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Education, Energy, and
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Executive Nominations Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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The Senate Finance Committee

SB 681 Worcester County – Board of License Commissioners - Membership

Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Thank you Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the distinguished Senate Finance Committee for this opportunity to present Senate Bill 681, Worcester County – Board of License Commissioners – Membership.

SB 681 would simply increase the number who serve on the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners from three to five members. The Board is the authority in Worcester County that enforces the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and follows through all regulatory aspects associated with alcohol licensing.

The Board has a strong reputation of being impartial, legally sound, and protecting the citizens and licenses of Worcester County to ensure a safe and enjoyable community. They have never received an ethics complaint, nor has a Board decision even been overturned on appeal. The Board has worked directly with local representatives to ensure many events in our community are safe and successful, such as Ocean’s Calling, which drew approximately 165,000 attendees over its three-day run in 2025.

The reason behind this legislation is that Worcester County and its municipalities, particularly Ocean City, have seen an increase in the number of establishments serving alcohol in recent years. The Board processes approximately 350 renewals for full-time license holders each year and holds monthly meetings which can include up to 25 to 30 cases, including new applications, transfer applications, changes in licensed premises and/or special requests. A larger board would allow for additional members who could bring added expertise relevant to licensing decisions.

Several Maryland counties have local liquor boards with five members, including Charles, Harford, Prince George’s, Montgomery, Queen Anne’s, St. Mary’s, and neighboring Wicomico County, of which I also represent.

I thank you for your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully request a favorable and very swift report on SB 681.