

GRANVILLE TEMPLETON, III, ESQ.
CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONERS
DONALD L. CHAMBERS, JR.
TAUERET K. THOMAS

ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER
ELIZABETH A. HAFEY, ESQ.



DOUGLAS K. PAIGE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MICHELLE B. WIRZBERGER, ESQ.
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

STACI L. RUSSELL
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY

STATE OF MARYLAND

BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
FOR BALTIMORE CITY
200 ST. PAUL PLACE, SUITE 2300
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202-5994
PHONE: (410) 396-4377

TO: The Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Michelle Wirzberger, Esq., Deputy Executive Secretary

RE: House Bill 1425 Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages Licenses – Revisions

DATE: April 1, 2026

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Hayes and members of the Senate Finance Committee, please be advised that the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) Supports House Bill 1425.

House Bill 1425 proposes two technical changes in the law that, if adopted, will help to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens on liquor licensees without negatively impacting the agency's regulatory responsibilities. Those changes are as follows:

Special Sunday License Application Date

Currently, holders of Class A liquor licenses may apply for a special license to sell alcohol on Sundays during the hours of 1:00 pm – 9:00 pm between Thanksgiving Day and New Years Day. To be eligible for the special license, the licensee must pay \$120 for each Sunday on which the privilege will be exercised and they must apply by September 30th. The September 30th deadline is arbitrary and can unnecessarily limit licensees' ability to benefit from this privilege. The bill removes the deadline which will make the process easier for our licensees without creating an undue burden on the agency.

Deadline to Satisfy Personal Property Tax

The law requires the agency to suspend the liquor licenses of those who have not satisfied their personal property taxes by October 30th of each year. Since personal property taxes are assessed on a rolling basis, licensees have different deadlines by which they must address these taxes. This requirement is generally helpful in ensuring that licensees are addressing all of the requirements they need to in order for their liquor license to remain active but the October 30th deadline is arbitrary. It would help us to better serve licensees and maximize the agency's staffing resources if licensees were required to demonstrate that they have satisfied their personal property taxes during the annual renewal process which begins in March.

At a time when many small businesses are having a tough time succeeding, the BLLC wants to make improvements that support licensees without limiting the agency's ability to regulate the behavior of the licensees. This bill achieves that commonsense balance. Therefore, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1425.