Sandy Popp
District 32 Resident

Maryland General Assembly
Senate Finance Committee
C/O The Honorable Pamela Beidle
3E Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 20, 2026

Bill Number: Senate Bill 414
Title: Anne Arundel County – Alcoholic Beverages – Consumption-Only Nonprofit Swim Club License
Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing in my personal capacity, as a member of Andover Recreation, Inc. ("Andover") to support Senate Bill 414. Senate Bill 414 will create a consumption-only nonprofit swim club license in Anne Arundel County. This license will allow nonprofit swim clubs to allow their members and members guests to bring and consume their own alcohol on the nonprofit swim club's premises during designated events, up to eight (8) times per year.

Andover Recreation

Andover is a members-only summer swim and tennis club located in Northern Anne Arundel County with around 475 memberships.

The facilities include a main pool with a slide and diving board, a smaller pool for the swim team and lap swimming, tennis courts, a playground, a soccer field, a volleyball area, and a snack bar.

Background

This past summer, Andover became aware that the Anne Arundel County Liquor Board prohibits nonprofit swim clubs from allowing members to bring and consume their own alcohol on Andover premises. Instead, Andover was advised that it would need to procure a one-day liquor license, become TIPS certified, and purchase and serve alcohol to its members. However, Andover's liability insurance does not provide coverage for distributing, selling, serving or furnishing alcohol – it only covers Andover if members bring and consume their own alcohol. Andover is not in the business of selling alcohol.

Andover Recreation hosts several events for its members. These events include adult night (music and dancing), food truck nights, pickleball tournaments, pool float and movie nights, DJ nights, and holiday related events for Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Support

Andover's Board of Directors unanimously supports Senate Bill 414. Membership has made it clear that they would like to be able to, on special occasions, bring their own alcohol to enjoy responsibly at Andover Recreation.

Senate Bill 414 will provide a valuable benefit to local swim clubs by allowing the clubs to create more opportunities to host social gatherings with more adult engagement. The increase in social gatherings will provide valuable opportunities for increased revenue through membership and food sales.

Andover Recreation is hoping that by permitting members to bring their own alcohol to some events, that it will curb members from bringing in alcohol outside of those designated events thus making it easier to ensure members are behaving responsibly.

Passage of this law will ease the burden on non-profit swim clubs by not requiring members to essentially become "bartenders". It will also streamline the process by allowing non-profit swim clubs to obtain one (1) license for up to five (5) events. Lastly, it will save Andover Recreation time and money – as Andover Recreation would not be burdened with having to obtain a rider on its insurance policy for each event where alcohol is permitted.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request a favorable report on Seante Bill 414.

Sincerely,

Sandy Popp
Andover Recreation Member