

MARY BETH CAROZZA
Legislative District 38
Somerset, Wicomico,
and Worcester Counties

Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee

Executive Nominations Committee



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 316
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3645 · 301-858-3645
800-492-7122 Ext. 3645
Fax 410-841-3006 · 301-858-3006
MaryBeth.Carozza@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 20, 2026

The Senate Finance Committee

**SB 846 Worcester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Temporary To-Go Event
Permit and Class C Per Diem Municipal To-Go Beer, Wine, and Liquor
License**

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 846, Worcester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Temporary To-Go Event Permit and Class C Per Diem Municipal To-Go Beer, Wine, and Liquor License.

SB 846 would establish a Class C per diem municipal to-go Beer, Wine, and Liquor (BWL) license and related temporary to-go event permit in Worcester County, which would authorize the license holder to sell retail beer, wine, and liquor in approved to-go cups that may be carried outside the licensed establishment and into the designated special event area.

These Class C to-go licenses must adhere to specific regulations to be adopted by the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners which would limit the to-go license to a specific special event area with specific hours, specific age requirements, and other public safety and event security requirements. The Maryland General Assembly passed this same legislation (SB 798) for Wicomico County in 2025.

SB 846 would fulfill a growing demand for local businesses and municipalities to responsibly expand their services while enhancing economic growth and community engagement at local events. This would be very beneficial for Worcester County small businesses, community gatherings, and our growing festival season, which now includes Springfest, Sunfest, the Ocean City Film Festival, Ocean's Calling, the White Marlin Open, and many others.

The Town of Ocean City in Worcester County serves as a major driver of Maryland's tourism economy, with roughly 8 million people visiting annually and summer weekend crowds reaching up to 320,000 to 345,000 visitors. The Maryland Tourism Industry supports over 190,000 jobs and generates \$2.4 billion in state and local taxes.

The Worcester County Board of License Commissioners 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. SB 846 entrusts the Board to adopt regulations to oversee these new licenses and ensure responsible implementation, and they work closely with the Fire

Marshal's Office, the Health Department, and State and local law enforcement agencies. The temporary nature of the permits would also allow for careful monitoring and adjustments as needed to best serve Worcester County residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

I thank you for your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully request a favorable and very swift report on SB 846.