

**SB0400 Letter of Support.docx.pdf**

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DAWN D. GILE  
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DELEGATION

January 29, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee:

The Anne Arundel County Senators met and voted on January 29th, 2026, to support SB0400, Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages - Entertainment Permits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dawn D. Gile".

Dawn D. Gile  
Chair, Anne Arundel County Senate Delegation

**Sen. Gile Written Testimony\_SB400.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dawn Gile

Position: FAV

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**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SB 400 modernizes the entertainment permit structure by replacing outdated terminology with clear tiers (Background vs. General vs. Full Entertainment) to accurately reflect the scope of activity at licensed venues.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.

**BLC SB 400 Legislation 2026.pdf**

Uploaded by: Edward Aronson

Position: FAV

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CHAIRMAN

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## BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

**Date:** February 18, 2026

**To:** The Honorable Chair and Members  
Senate Finance Committee

**RE: Senate Bill 400 – Written Testimony (Support)**

The Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners respectfully submits this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 400.

This legislation modernizes the entertainment permit structure by replacing outdated terminology with clearly defined tiers that reflect the actual scope of activity at licensed establishments. The proposal maintains the existing fee structure while providing a consistent regulatory framework that improves clarity for licensees, enforcement personnel, and the community.

The enclosed summary provides the operational and fiscal details for the Committee's consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. Aronson'.

Edward I. Aronson  
Executive Director  
Board of License Commissioners  
for Anne Arundel County

## **SENATE BILL 400: ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT TIERS**

**SUBJECT:** Modernization of Entertainment Permits

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT:** This proposal modernizes the entertainment permit structure to address confusion caused by outdated terminology—specifically the tier labeled "Dancing," which technically covers *any* legal form of entertainment. The new framework renames the tiers to accurately reflect the scope of activity, creating a clearer distinction between standard entertainment and venues with permanent dance floors and stages.

### **PROPOSED PERMIT TIERS:**

#### **Tier I: Background Entertainment Permit**

- **Authorized Activity:** Operation of piped-in background music, recorded music, and unlimited television screens.

#### **Tier II: General Entertainment Permit**

- **Authorized Activity:** Includes all Tier I privileges, plus:
  - Live music (limited to a maximum of four musicians)
  - Disc Jockey (DJ) services
  - Trivia games and Karaoke

#### **Tier III: Full Entertainment Permit**

- **Authorized Activity:** Includes all Tier I and II privileges, plus:
  - Utilization of a permanent dance floor
  - Designated stage area
  - Floor shows and other forms of legal entertainment

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None. All annual fees remain unchanged.