

SB718_DelegationLetter_Amendment_VotingRecord

Uploaded by: Delegate Jesse Pippy

Position: FAV

DELEGATE JESSE T. PIPPY
DELEGATION CHAIR
SENATOR WILLIAM G. FOLDEN
DELEGATION VICE CHAIR



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
FREDERICK COUNTY DELEGATION

SENATORS
PAUL D. CORDERMAN
KAREN LEWIS YOUNG
JUSTIN READY

DELEGATES
CHRISTOPHER ERIC BOUCHAT
BARRIE S. CILIBERTI
KRIS FAIR
KENNETH P. KERR
APRIL FLEMING MILLER
APRIL ROSE
KAREN SIMPSON
CHRIS TOMLINSON
WILLIAM VALENTINE
WILLIAM WIVELL

02/13/2026

Chair Beidle and Vice-Chair Hayes,

SB718, Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class L Permit, was voted on by the Frederick County Delegation on February 13th, 2026, and received support from a majority of the Delegation as amended. A voting list has been sent to the committee along with this letter. The Frederick County Delegation asks for a favorable report from the Senate Finance Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse T. Pippy".

Del. Jesse T. Pippy – Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William G. Folden".

Sen. William Folden – Vice Chair



SB0718/313626/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

13 FEB 26
11:41:14

BY: Frederick County Senators
(To be offered in the Finance Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 718
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “**Senator Folden**” and substitute “**Frederick County Senators**”; and in lines 5 and 6, strike “that also holds a certain license or permit”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, strike beginning with “**THAT**” in line 4 down through “**PERMIT**” in line 5; in line 8, after “**PRODUCED**” insert “**IN THE STATE**”; and in line 11, after “**MANUFACTURED**” insert “**IN THE STATE**”.

Frederick County Delegation – Voting List

Date: 2-13-26

Item: SB718 - Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class L Permit

Motion: Favorable, Delegation Support

Description: Amendments to strike “Senator Folden” and replace with “Frederick County Senators;” strike beginning with “that” in line 4 down through “permit” in line 5; in line 8, after “Produced” insert “in the state”; and in line 11, after “manufactured” insert “in the state”

Name	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Chair Pippy	X			
Vice Chair Folden	X			
Delegate Bouchat	X			
Delegate Ciliberti	X			
Senator Corderman	X			
Delegate Fair	X			
Delegate Kerr			X	
Senator Lewis-Young	X			
Delegate Miller	X			
Senator Ready	X			
Delegate Rose				X
Delegate Simpson	X			
Delegate Tomlinson	X			
Delegate Valentine	X			
Delegate Wivell	X			
FINAL VOTE	13	0	1	1

Testimony in support of SB0718 - Frederick County

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

SB0718_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/20/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0718 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class L Permit

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB#/0718, Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class L Permit

The purpose of this bill is to support businesses in Frederick County that are manufacturing or distilling alcoholic beverages to sell or provide samples of their products on-site for consumption.

This bill will accomplish this by establishing a Class L beer, wine, and liquor permit in Frederick County; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Frederick County to issue the permit to a holder of a manufacturer's license that also holds a Class DBR brewery license or a Class DDS distillery permit; and specifying that the permit authorizes the permit holder to sell or provide samples of certain beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption under certain circumstances.

This is good for both consumers and for these businesses and will assist our many craft breweries and distillers to profit in-house from their products.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0718.

Visit Frederick SB 718 Letter of Support 2.18.26.p

Uploaded by: Dave Ziedelis

Position: FWA



February 18, 2026

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB718 – Frederick County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class L Permit

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

On behalf of Visit Frederick (the Tourism Council of Frederick County), the designated and official destination marketing organization for Frederick County, MD, please accept this letter of support with amendment for **SB718 – Frederick County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class L Permit** with the amendment being to merely specify that it is to only permit the sale by a holder or another holder of a **Maryland** manufacturer's license.

SB 718 will enhance Frederick's tourism economy by expanding permitting options for businesses that host visitors, events, and cultural attractions. Tourists increasingly seek destination experiences that integrate Maryland's local food and beverage culture with our historic sites, festivals, wineries, craft breweries, and event venues. This bill creates a new permit category designed to help Frederick County businesses better cater to these visitors and stimulate further tourism-related economic activity.

Tourism and hospitality are among Frederick's most dynamic economic sectors. Travelers choose destinations not only for natural and historic attractions, but also for quality culinary and beverage experiences — including local wines, craft beers, spirits, and farm-to-table events. Expanding the available license types helps local businesses host festivals, weddings, tastings, and other events that attract visitors from across the region and beyond. This in turn drives overnight stays, restaurant patronage, retail sales, and broader spending in the community.

By enabling Frederick County businesses to access a Class L permit, **SB 718** recognizes the importance of flexible and visitor-friendly alcohol licensing in supporting tourism growth. The bill supports job creation in hospitality and service sectors, increases consumer choice for travelers, and enhances the overall visitor experience — all of which strengthens the economic impact of tourism in Frederick.

We encourage everyone on the Senate Finance Committee to support **SB 718**. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Ziedelis". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Dave Ziedelis
Executive Director

Letter of Information - SB718 - Frederick County -

Uploaded by: Thomas Akras

Position: INFO



ATCC

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission

Wes Moore
Governor

Aruna K. Miller
Lt. Governor

Jeffrey A. Kelly
Executive Director

February 20, 2026

BILL: SB718 - Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class L Permit
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Letter of Information

RE: Letter of Information – SB718 – Frederick County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class L Permit

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee:

I write on behalf of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission to provide this Letter of Information to the Senate Finance Committee regarding SB718 – Frederick County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class L Permit.

The ATCC - and formerly the Field Enforcement Division of the Comptroller's Office - has long supported the growth and development of Maryland's manufacturing industry. From the early days of Maryland's craft brewing and distilling renaissance to the robust and diverse industry that exists today, the State has fostered an environment that encourages innovation, investment, and local economic development. Maryland manufacturers have created jobs, revitalized communities, and enhanced the State's reputation as a destination for high-quality beer, wine, and distilled spirits. The ATCC remains committed to supporting a fair, equitable, and legally sound regulatory framework that allows Maryland manufacturers to thrive.

SB718 would authorize the Frederick County Board of License Commissioners (FCBLC) to issue a Class L permit to the holder of a Distillery License (DDS) or a Brewery License (DBR), permitting the holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor produced by other producers that hold a Maryland Manufacturer's License. While the ATCC takes no position on the policy merits of expanding retail privileges in Frederick County, we wish to bring to the Committee's attention significant legal developments that may have implications for this legislation.

In *Furlong v. Brown, et al.*, the United States District Court for the District of Maryland recently held that Maryland's Direct Delivery Law was unconstitutional because it violated the Commerce Clause of Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution. Specifically, the Court held that Maryland's "Direct Delivery Law discriminate[s] against out-of-state beer manufacturers in violation of the dormant Commerce Clause doctrine and ... such Laws are not justified by legitimate interests under the Twenty-

First Amendment.”¹ As a result, the Court enjoined the ATCC from prohibiting out-of-state beer manufacturers from directly shipping beer to consumers within the State.

Additionally, the Court awarded attorneys’ fees to the plaintiffs. It is anticipated that the State may be responsible for payment of approximately \$450,000 in attorneys’ fees, exclusive of the substantial costs incurred in defending the matter at trial. The State is pursuing post-trial motions and potential appeal to the 4th Circuit Court of the U.S. Court of Appeals, but it should be noted that at the time of this writing the District Court’s judgement is final and would be precedent for future litigation challenging Maryland alcohol laws on commerce clause grounds.


SB718 is similar in structure to Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article § 9-905, which authorizes the Allegany County Board of License Commissioners to issue a Class L beer, wine, and liquor license to a Maryland manufacturer. Neither the ATCC nor the former Comptroller’s Office took a position on that legislation when it was introduced and enacted in 2019. However, the legal landscape has materially changed as a result of the Furlong decision.

To the extent that SB718 authorizes privileges limited to products manufactured by Maryland manufacturers, it may raise dormant Commerce Clause considerations similar to those addressed by the federal court in Furlong. While the ATCC would not be involved in the issuance of a Class L permit by the FCBLC should SB718 become law, the agency believes it is prudent to highlight the potential legal exposure and associated fiscal risk that could arise if such permits are issued in a manner that is found to discriminate against out-of-state manufacturers.

On behalf of the ATCC, we would like to thank the Committee for their time and consideration of the ATCC’s Letter of Information regarding SB718 – Frederick County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class L Permit.

The ATCC remains committed to supporting Maryland’s manufacturing industry while ensuring that the State’s regulatory framework complies with constitutional requirements. I am available to answer any questions or concerns that you may have related to this Letter of Information on this piece of legislation.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey A. Kelly
Executive Director
Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission of Maryland

¹ [Furlong v. Brown, No. CV RDB-23-2045, 2025 WL 3727882, at *25 \(D. Md. Dec. 23, 2025\)](#)