

SB 0802 Garrett County Alcoholic Beverages Act of

Uploaded by: Deborah Owston

Position: FAV



GARRETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Board of License Commissioners - Liquor Control Board

203 South Fourth Street, Room 208, Oakland, Maryland 21550
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Phone 301-334-1925 – Fax 301-334-5023
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Board Members

David L. Moe
Michael J. Fratz
Lisa M. Herman

February 18, 2026

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

RE: SENATE BILL 0802 - GARRETT COUNTY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ACT OF 2026

Dear Chair Beidle:

The Board of License Commissioners / Liquor Control Board (Board) requested the Garrett County Delegation to introduce Senate Bill 0802. The legislative requests relate to Title 21 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article specific to Garrett County. The request includes some housekeeping amendments, establishing a new permit, specifying residency requirements on applications, and adding a substitute board member.

A Garrett County winery requested the Special Event Permit. This permit would allow Class 3 and Class 4 Wineries in Garrett County to have private contracted events when the winery is closed to the public. It would also allow for certain alcoholic beverages that weren't produced by the permit holder to be sold and served during private events. The request to amend the requirements for certain holders of the Catering License and Catering Option specific to Garrett County are for consistency. This includes specific requirements that the caterer has at least one member of staff with current alcohol awareness training present at all times when food and alcohol are catered in Garrett County. The request to alter the residency requirements is to include specific required residency information on the application. The addition of a substitute Board member is to appoint an additional individual to the Board to serve when regular members are absent, have a conflict of interest, have an illness, are incapacitated to serve or there is a Board vacancy.

The Board of License Commissioners / Liquor Control Board asks for your favorable consideration of Senate Bill 0802 and thank you for the support you may give this legislative issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deborah R. Owston".

Deborah R. Owston
Administrators of the Board of License Commissioners

cc: Delegate James Hinebaugh, Jr.
Senator Mike McKay

SB 802 - Written Testimony - Finance.pdf

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Williamsport, Maryland

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committees

Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review
Children, Youth, and Families
Program Open Space and Agricultural
Land Preservation

Senate Bill 802 – Garrett County - Alcoholic Beverages Act of 2026

February 20, 2026

Dear Chair Biedle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 802, which modernizes and strengthens Garrett County's alcoholic beverage regulations to better serve local businesses and residents. This legislation introduces practical updates, including the addition of a substitute member to the Board of License Commissioners to ensure continuity in decision-making, and the creation of a special event permit for Class 3 and Class 4 winery license holders. These changes will promote economic development by enabling wineries to host private events responsibly while maintaining safeguards such as advance scheduling, certified alcohol awareness personnel, and compliance with fire safety codes.

Additionally, SB 802 enhances accountability and public safety by requiring caterers and license holders exercising catering privileges to provide food service, maintain trained staff on-site, and ensure that food sales represent a significant portion of event costs. The bill also includes clear provisions for verifying citizenship or lawful immigration status on license applications, reinforcing transparency and compliance with state and federal law. By balancing business flexibility with strong consumer protections, SB 802 supports Garrett County's hospitality industry while upholding community standards.

I thank you for your time and I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties

SB802_GarrettCoDelegation Letter

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



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Williamsport Office
2N Conococheque Street
Williamsport Town Hall
Williamsport, Maryland

February 19, 2026

RE: Senate Bill 802 – Garrett County – Alcoholic Beverages Act of 2026

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

The Garrett County Delegation expresses their support for Senate Bill 802 – Garrett County – Alcoholic Beverages Act of 2026.

The bill's purpose is to add a substitute member to the Board of License Commissioners for Garrett County, and it will establish a certain special event permit that the Board may issue to a holder of a Class 3 winery license or a Class 4 limited winery license. It will also establish certain additional requirements for certain holders of certain licenses with a catering option. This bill will require the holder of a certain caterer's license at a catered event to supply certain service personnel, ensure that certain service personnel are present at all times, and ensure the sale of food represents a specific amount of the total cost of the event.

The Delegation thanks you for your time and asks for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay
Garrett County Delegation Chair
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties