

# **SB846 Worcester County.pdf**

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Position: FAV



**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*

Position: **SUPPORT**

To: **Finance Committee**

Date: **February 18, 2026**

From: County Commissioners of Worcester County

On behalf of the Worcester County Commissioners, we respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 846. SB 846 creates a Temporary To-Go Event Permit and a Class C Per Diem Municipal To-Go Beer, Wine, and Liquor License in Worcester County.

This legislation serves as a carefully structured, event-specific tourism and economic development tool that municipalities may use to manage designated special event areas in a controlled and transparent manner. This framework has operated successfully in Wicomico County and has demonstrated that, when paired with clear regulations and local oversight, it enhances community events while maintaining public safety. SB 846 requires the Board of License Commissioners to adopt regulations addressing event area designation, hours of sale, age verification, approved containers, public notice, and security requirements.

The authority is temporary, geographically limited, and tied directly to municipal approval and Board oversight. For a rural, tourism-driven jurisdiction like Worcester County, Maryland's only oceanfront county, serving 54,000 residents and more than eight million visitors annually, this bill provides a safe, accountable tool to support local events, small businesses, and municipal economic activity without compromising enforcement standards.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 846.

# **SB 846 - Senator Carozza Testimony\_FINAL.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

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

Education, Energy, and  
the Environment Committee

Executive Nominations Committee



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**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.

# **SB846\_SenateDelegation**

Uploaded by: Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

MARY BETH CAROZZA  
Legislative District 38  
Somerset, Wicomico,  
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 19, 2026

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

Dear Chair Beidle,

The Worcester County Delegation supports 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. I thank you for your committee's consideration of this bill and request a favorable report.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Beth Carozza".

MARY BETH CAROZZA  
State Senator – District 38  
Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico