

# **HB1526 Delegation Letter of Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Anthony Nicholas

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
CARROLL COUNTY DELEGATION

February 16, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells  
House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee  
145 Lowe House Office Building  
142 Lowe House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Carroll County House Delegation Letter of Support  
House Bill 1526 – Carroll County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class 1 Distillery On-Premises  
Consumption Permit**

Dear Chairwoman Wells, and members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee.

The Carroll County House Delegation would like to notify the House Government, Labor, and Elections of their support for House Bill 1526 – Carroll County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class 1 Distillery On-Premises Consumption Permit.

The above-mentioned bill was considered by the Carroll County Delegation on 2/12/26. The Carroll County Senators and Delegates voted 4-0 in favor of the bill, with two members absent.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Tomlinson".

**Delegate Chris Tomlinson**

*5<sup>th</sup> Legislative District (Carroll & Frederick)*

*321 Lowe House Office Building*

*6 Bladen Street*

*Annapolis, MD 21401*

*410-841-3359*

# **HB1526\_CarrollCountySenateDelegation\_FAV**

Uploaded by: Carroll County Senate Delegation

Position: FAV

SENATOR JUSTIN READY  
SENATE CHAIR

SENATOR CHRIS WEST



DELEGATE CHRIS TOMLINSON  
HOUSE CHAIR

DELEGATE CHRISTOPHER ERIC BOUCHAT  
DELEGATE APRIL ROSE  
DELEGATE JOSHUA STONKO

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
CARROLL COUNTY DELEGATION

**April 1, 2026**

**Carroll County Senate Delegation Letter of Support**

**HB1526 – Carroll County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class 1 Distillery On-Premises Consumption Permit**

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

HB1526 – Carroll County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class 1 Distillery On-Premises Consumption Permit was voted on at the Carroll County February 12, 2026, delegation meeting. It was approved unanimously by the Carroll County Senate Delegation, 2-0.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Justin Ready in black ink.

Senator Justin Ready

Handwritten signature of Chris West in black ink.

Senator Chris West

**2026 03 - J Yang Written Testimony HB1526.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jennifer Yang

Position: FAV

## **Jennifer Yang's Written Testimony (April 2026)**

### **In Support of HB1526: Class 1 Distillery On-Premises Consumption Permit**

To the Maryland State Senators:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a written testimony in support of HB1526. My name is Jennifer Yang. I am one of the owners of Covalent Spirits, a small distillery in Westminster, MD. I am writing with the support of Patapsco Distilling Company in Sykesville, MD. We are currently the only 2 distilleries in Carroll Co.

Under existing Maryland law, the Carroll County Board of License Commissioners already issues on-premises consumption permits to Class 1 distilleries. HB1526 does not create a new concept of an on-premise consumption permit. Instead, it codifies the existing practice as its own permit category for the county, and with that, enables the county to add clarifying language, such as allowing distilleries to clearly and legally offer food and non-alcoholic beverages.

In terms of the food and non-alcoholic beverages, there is also clear precedent for this approach. In 2024, the Frederick County delegation passed similar legislation to establish an on-premises consumption permit for Class 1 distilleries and permitted distilleries to sell food and non-alcoholic beverages. HB1526 extends that framework to Carroll County.

I have been told that if something is not explicitly written into law, it is thus not permitted. But when it comes to non-alcoholic beverages and food, there is a gray area with current regulations for distilleries. One wouldn't think selling a soda or mocktail would be an issue, but I've heard stories of distilleries getting scrutiny for selling a soda or pack of crackers. We can sell a rum and coke but not just coke? A vodka cran but not just a glass of cran?

Food also is not explicitly written as allowed. But as a place that sells spirits, we should be able to sell food too. It's for public safety! We are not looking to be a restaurant. We want to offer our customers a better (and safer) experience without fear of being reprimanded. While we have partnered with food vendors in the past, they are not always reliable, and we cannot predict how busy they will be. So often, it isn't worth it for the food vendors to sell at our distillery.

By explicitly authorizing non-alcoholic beverage and food under a codified permit structure, the bill improves the visitor experience while maintaining strong local oversight and regulatory controls. Craft distilleries are important economic drivers in Maryland. They attract visitors, support local farmers and suppliers, create jobs, and help revitalize historic downtowns. In Carroll County, Covalent Spirits and Patapsco Distilling occupy historic buildings – buildings that are over 100 years old that we had to renovate and revitalize. Our businesses serve as anchors for tourism, events, small business development, and Main Street development in our towns. Aligning distillery privileges with contemporary hospitality models will strengthen these economic and community benefits.

For these reasons, I hope the Maryland Senate supports and passes HB1526. Thank you for your consideration.

# **2026 April 1 HB 1526 Alcohol Beverages Support Sen**

Uploaded by: Pam Meister

Position: FAV

**Board of County  
Commissioners**

Joseph A. Vigliotti, President  
Michael R. Guerin, Vice President  
Thomas S. Gordon III  
Kenneth A. Kiler  
Susan W. Krebs



**Carroll County Government**

225 North Center Street  
Westminster, Maryland 21157  
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978  
fax 410-386-2485  
MD Relay 711/800-735-2258

April 1, 2026

Senator Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SUPPORT for HB 1526 (SB 959): Carroll County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class 1 Distillery On-Premises Consumption Permit

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Carroll County Board of Commissioners supports House Bill 1526 (SB 959): Carroll County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class 1 Distillery On-Premises Consumption Permit.

HB 1526 establishes a Class 1 Distillery On-Premises Consumption Permit in Carroll County. The bill authorizes the Board of License Commissioners to issue a permit to a holder of a Class 1 distillery license, allowing the sale of food, nonalcoholic beverages, and spirits produced at the distillery for on-premises consumption.

This bill applies only in Carroll County and maintains local control and regulatory oversight. It requires Health Department approval for food service, requires a clearly delineated diagram separating manufacturing and consumption areas, and authorizes the local Board to adopt regulations and establish an annual permit fee.

HB 1526 supports small manufacturers, enhances agritourism opportunities, and ensures that appropriate safeguards remain in place. It provides flexibility while preserving the County's ability to regulate responsibly.

For these reasons, the Carroll County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1526.

Sincerely,

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY

A blue ink signature of Joseph A. Vigliotti, consisting of a stylized 'JAV' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Joseph A. Vigliotti  
President

A blue ink signature of Michael R. Guerin, consisting of a stylized 'MRG' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Michael R. Guerin  
Vice President

A blue ink signature of Thomas S. Gordon III, consisting of a stylized 'TSG' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Thomas S. Gordon III

A blue ink signature of Kenneth A. Kiler, consisting of a stylized 'KAK' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Kenneth A. Kiler

A blue ink signature of Susan W. Krebs, consisting of a stylized 'SWK' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Susan W. Krebs