



House Bill 1101

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: **Government, Labor, and Elections Committee**

Date: **February 19, 2026**

From: County Commissioners of Worcester County

On behalf of the Worcester County Commissioners, we respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 1101. BB 1101 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. HB 1101 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 House Bill 1101.



Mayor & Council of Berlin

10 William Street, Berlin, Maryland 21811

Phone 410-641-2770 Fax 410-641-2316

www.berlinmd.gov

Mayor

Zack Tyndall

Vice President

Dean Burrell

Council Members

Steve Green

Jay Knerr

Shaneka Nichols

Jack Orris

Town Attorney

David Gaskill

Town Administrator

Mary Bohlen



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

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

Letter of Support: HB1101

Dear Chair Beidle, Chair Wells, and Members of the Committees,

I, along with the full support of the Town Council, write in strong support of the proposed Worcester County Class C Per Diem to-go alcohol legislation.

Berlin's historic downtown is anchored by locally owned restaurants and bars that operate year-round and serve as the backbone of our local economy. Our festivals draw thousands of visitors, generating significant economic activity and meaningful local and state tax revenue. These events are designed to highlight small businesses and drive foot traffic directly into our downtown establishments. Under current regulations, however, our brick-and-mortar restaurants and bars are not on equal footing with temporary event vendors when it comes to alcohol sales during large-scale events.

As attendance and demand increase, existing licensed establishments are limited in their ability to fully participate in this surge. Revenue opportunities are not maximized for businesses that invest in our community year-round. This legislation provides a practical and responsible solution: by allowing greater flexibility within a clearly defined and controlled event zone, it enables downtown establishments to better meet customer demand, strengthen small business sustainability, and enhance visitor experience, all while generating additional local and state tax revenue.

Berlin has built a reputation as a premier destination for festivals, dining, and small-town charm. Ensuring that our established downtown businesses can fully benefit from the events that draw thousands to our streets is both economically sound and fair. For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on this legislation.

Respectfully,

Mayor Zack

Mayor Zack Tyndall
Town of Berlin, Maryland



TOWN OF
SNOW HILL
MARYLAND

Janet Simpson, Mayor
Margaret Ann Fletcher, Council
Edward S. Lee, Council
Aaron W. Lumpkins, Council
Rick Pollitt, Town Manager
Maureen Howarth, Town Attorney

Mayor & Town Council of Snow Hill

19 February 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Town of Snow Hill, I respectfully offer strong support for HB 1101/ SB 846, authorizing temporary to-go event permit and establishing a Class C per diem municipal to-go beer, wine, and liquor license and the addition of a Class D in an amendment to the bill. This will allow all four of the relevant Snow Hill businesses to benefit from the temporary to-go event permit.

The Worcester County Commissioners voted unanimously on January 20, 2026, to support this legislation and met with the State Appointed Bureau of License Commissioners to review the bill, answer questions, and ensure alignment on implementation and oversight.

HB 1101 will provide Snow Hill a flexible but well-regulated tool to enhance local events and activate our downtown during community events. Under clearly defined conditions and regulations adopted by the Board of License Commissioners, these provisions would:

- Increase foot traffic for local restaurants and retailers
- Strengthen tourism and community-driven events
- Create controlled, supplemental revenue opportunities for existing license holders
- Maintain strong enforcement, oversight, and compliance through the BLC

In Snow Hill, our community events are essential economic drivers. Local restaurants and retailers operate on narrow margins, particularly outside peak tourism seasons. Providing them with the ability to responsibly participate in community events through a structured permitting process can have a measurable and meaningful economic impact.

HB 1101 represents a balanced approach, supporting economic vitality while preserving strong regulatory standards. We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Janet Simpson

Mayor of Snow Hill



Office of Tourism & Economic Development
107 West Green Street, Snow Hill, MD 21863
(410) 632-3112 • www.MarylandsCoast.org

February 19, 2026

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

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

RE: FAVORABLE report on SB 846/HB 1101 Worcester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Temporary To-Go Event Permit and Class C Per Diem Municipal To-Go Beer, Wine, and Liquor License

Dear Chair Beidle, Chair Wells, and Members of the Committees:

On behalf of the Worcester County Office of Tourism & Economic Development, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 846/HB 1101, authorizing temporary to-go event permit and establishing a Class C and Class D per diem municipal to-go beer, wine, and liquor license.

The Worcester County Commissioners voted unanimously on January 20, 2026, to support this legislation. We have also met with our Bureau of License Commissioners (BLC) to review the bill, answer questions, and ensure alignment on implementation and oversight. Wicomico County adopted similar enabling legislation last year, and it has proven to be highly successful, supporting community events, strengthening local businesses, and doing so without compromising regulatory oversight.

Representatives from the Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners met jointly with the Worcester County BLC to share their experience and outline the positive reception of the program since its implementation on July 1. Their feedback has been overwhelmingly favorable, particularly regarding compliance, enforcement, and operational clarity.

SB 846/HB 1101 would provide participating municipalities, such as Berlin, Snow Hill, and Pocomoke City, with a flexible but well-regulated tool to enhance local events and activate downtown districts. Under clearly defined conditions and regulations adopted by the Board of License Commissioners, these provisions would:

- Increase foot traffic for local restaurants and retailers
- Strengthen tourism and community-driven events
- Create controlled, supplemental revenue opportunities for existing license holders
- Maintain strong enforcement, oversight, and compliance through the BLC



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For our small municipalities, events are essential economic drivers to attract visitors. Local restaurants and retailers operate on narrow margins, particularly outside peak tourism seasons. Providing them with the ability to responsibly participate in community events through a structured permitting process will have a measurable and meaningful economic impact.

SB 846/HB 1101 represents a balanced approach, supporting economic vitality while preserving strong regulatory standards. We respectfully request a favorable report and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melanie Pursel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "P".

Melanie Pursel, Director

BLACKSMITH RESTAURANT – BERLIN MARYLAND

To the Maryland General Assembly House of Delegates,

I wanted to send a few reasons that we at Blacksmith think HB1101 is so important to not only our business, but to the town as a whole.

1) It creates an atmosphere of welcome and an invitation to explore the myriad options our town offers. From shopping and dining to grabbing an ice cream or stopping by our Taylor House Museum. Walking around in town in search of a bite to eat or a drink opens up our town to those who are visiting.

2) It creates a reason to walk into our diverse dining and drinking establishments. We have a lot to offer and when folks are sequestered between road blocks and to a fold out table or beer truck they do not fully get a taste of all we have to offer.

3) It allows us as Chef's, owners and staff to showcase our craft that we work so hard to hone. When a guest can get a beverage (alcohol or otherwise) and a bite to go, they get to see our spaces, experience our hospitality and it allows us to introduce ourselves and answer any questions and that fosters future visits.

Thank you for taking the time to support Berlin and our businesses.

Best,
Justine Zegna
Blacksmith Restaurant

To Whom it May Concern :

I am writing on behalf of Oaked at the Globe to respectfully propose the consideration of allowing to-go alcohol sales during designated special events in downtown Berlin. As our town continues to grow as a destination for both locals and visitors, we believe this initiative would serve as a meaningful enhancement to the overall event experience while providing measurable economic and community benefits.

Downtown Berlin has become known for its vibrant events: festivals, markets, seasonal celebrations, and community gatherings that draw significant foot traffic and showcase the charm of our town. Allowing responsible, regulated to-go alcohol service during these events would further elevate the atmosphere by encouraging guests to explore the downtown area more freely while supporting local businesses.

From a business standpoint, this would:

Increase revenue opportunities for local restaurants and bars, particularly during high-traffic events where traditional seating capacity limits service.

Encourage greater participation in town events, as guests can enjoy a beverage while walking, shopping, and engaging with vendors.

From a community perspective, this initiative can be implemented in a way that prioritizes safety and organization. Many towns have successfully adopted similar programs using:

Clearly marked event boundaries

Approved containers (e.g., branded cups)

Collaboration between businesses and local enforcement to ensure compliance

We believe Berlin is uniquely positioned to execute this in a way that aligns with the town's character, responsible, welcoming, and community-driven.

Our goal is not only to enhance the guest experience but to continue building Berlin as a destination that supports its local businesses while maintaining the charm and safety standards that make it so special.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued support of the downtown business community.

Sincerely,

Joe Brittingham

Owner, Oaked at the Globe