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Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations
Committee
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Health Occupations and
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Joint Committee on Administrative,
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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg
Before the Baltimore City Alcohol Subcommittee
In Support of
House Bill 348

Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – License Extension

Chair Clippinger and Members of the Baltimore City Alcohol Subcommittee:

A liquor license expires 180 days after the license holder has closed the business or stopped active alcoholic beverages business operations on the premises. (See MD Code, Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis, § 12-2202.) The renovation of Pimlico Racecourse has prompted the Maryland Jockey Club to suspend live racing and cease the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Renovations to the Racecourse will exceed 180 days. That exceeds the authority of Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners under current law to extend the life of a license. HB 348 is required to ensure that the license is still alive at the completion of the renovation. Specifically, this legislation states that the race track's license shall be considered unexpired until the end of July 1, 2029.

This legislation was drafted in collaboration with the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners. On Preakness Day next year and on all racing days that follow, Black Eyed Susans and Natty Bohs should flow.

I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 348.

February 11th, 2025