

Adam M. Streight
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CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND
Office of the County Executive
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2100, Elkton, MD 21921

February 18, 2026

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
Government, Labor & Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Wells and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Cecil County Board of License Commissioners, we respectfully submit this letter in support with amendment of HB 664.

HB 664 provides a focused and practical update to Cecil County's alcoholic beverage licensing framework by modifying how the quota for Class A licenses is calculated. As amended, the bill adjusts the ratio to one Class A license for every 2,000 registered voters and clarifies that the quota applies solely to Class A licenses rather than aggregating multiple license classes into a single calculation. The amendment further ensures that the Board may issue not fewer than two Class A licenses in each election district, preserving equitable access and operational flexibility throughout the county.

From an administrative standpoint, this legislation represents a measured modernization of the existing statutory framework. By narrowing the quota calculation specifically to Class A licenses and establishing a clear minimum threshold per district, HB 664 enhances clarity, consistency, and predictability in the licensing process. This refinement allows the Board to administer the law more effectively while maintaining appropriate regulatory oversight.

From an economic perspective, a transparent and predictable quota structure supports responsible business growth. Retail establishments operating under Class A licenses contribute meaningfully to Cecil County's commercial vitality and tax base. The amended bill refines the methodology in a way that reflects current voter registration levels and community growth while preserving the structured controls that safeguard public interest.

For these reasons, the Cecil County Board of License Commissioners respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 664, as amended.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Earl R. Bradford'.

Earl Bradford
Cecil County Board of License Commissioners

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Senator Pamela Beidle
Senate Finance Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Cecil County Board of License Commissioners, we respectfully submit this letter in support with amendment of SB 897.

SB 897 provides a focused and practical update to Cecil County's alcoholic beverage licensing framework by modifying how the quota for Class A licenses is calculated. As amended, the bill adjusts the ratio to one Class A license for every 2,000 registered voters and clarifies that the quota applies solely to Class A licenses rather than aggregating multiple license classes into a single calculation. The amendment further ensures that the Board may issue not fewer than two Class A licenses in each election district, preserving equitable access and operational flexibility throughout the county.

From an administrative standpoint, this legislation represents a measured modernization of the existing statutory framework. By narrowing the quota calculation specifically to Class A licenses and establishing a clear minimum threshold per district, SB 897 enhances clarity, consistency, and predictability in the licensing process. This refinement allows the Board to administer the law more effectively while maintaining appropriate regulatory oversight.

From an economic perspective, a transparent and predictable quota structure supports responsible business growth. Retail establishments operating under Class A licenses contribute meaningfully to Cecil County's commercial vitality and tax base. The amended bill refines the methodology in a way that reflects current voter registration levels and community growth while preserving the structured controls that safeguard public interest.

For these reasons, the Cecil County Board of License Commissioners respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 897, as amended.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Earl R. Bradford'.

Earl Bradford
Cecil County Board of License Commissioners