



GARRETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Board of License Commissioners - Liquor Control Board

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Board Members

David L. Moe
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February 19, 2026

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

RE: HOUSE BILL 1203 - GARRETT COUNTY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ACT OF 2026

Dear Chair Wells:

The Board of License Commissioners / Liquor Control Board (Board) requested the Garrett County Delegation to introduce House Bill 1203. The legislative requests relate to Title 21 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article specific to Garrett County. The request includes some housekeeping amendments, establishing a new permit, specifying residency requirements on applications, and adding a substitute board member.

A Garrett County winery requested the Special Event Permit. This permit would allow Class 3 and Class 4 Wineries in Garrett County to have private contracted events when the winery is closed to the public. It would also allow for certain alcoholic beverages that weren't produced by the permit holder to be sold and served during private events. The request to amend the requirements for certain holders of the Catering License and Catering Option specific to Garrett County are for consistency. This includes specific requirements that the caterer has at least one member of staff with current alcohol awareness training present at all times when food and alcohol are catered in Garrett County. The request to alter the residency requirements is to include specific required residency information on the application. The addition of a substitute Board member is to appoint an additional individual to the Board to serve when regular members are absent, have a conflict of interest, have an illness, are incapacitated to serve or there is a Board vacancy.

The Board of License Commissioners / Liquor Control Board asks for your favorable consideration of House Bill 1203 and thanks you for the support you may give this legislative issue.

Sincerely,

Deborah R. Owston
Administrator of the Board of License Commissioners

cc: Delegate James Hinebaugh, Jr.
Senator Mike McKay