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*Legislative District 40*



**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony for Senator Hayes in Support of Senate Bill 972 - Baltimore City - 40th Alcoholic Beverages District - Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor Licenses**

Dear Madam Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee,

Across Baltimore City, local restaurants and neighborhood establishments play a vital role in supporting economic development, creating jobs, and activating commercial corridors. However, certain locations face regulatory barriers that prevent them from obtaining the types of licenses necessary to operate successfully and compete with other establishments in the city.

Senate Bill 972 addresses this issue by authorizing the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners to issue Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses for specific restaurant locations within the 40th district.

As introduced, Senate Bill 972:

- Applicants must execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the appropriate neighborhood association.
- The Board of License Commissioners retains oversight and may waive certain seating requirements when appropriate.
- In the case of the odd side of the 1000 block of West Baltimore Street, licenses are restricted from being transferred to another person or location.

Since introduction, the bill has been amended to incorporate additional community safeguards and technical updates.

First, the amendments establish time-of-sale limitations for alcoholic beverages in certain areas of the 40th district, where sales may not begin before 10:00 a.m. or extend past 10:00 p.m.

Second, the amendments clarify an existing Class C license provision for the 1200 block of Eutaw Place, including requirements for a memorandum of understanding with the Bolton Hill

Community Association and allowing the Board to waive the requirement that sales be limited to members and their guests.

Finally, the amendments include technical updates to statutory boundary descriptions and street references, such as updating Millington Avenue to Brunswick Street and West Pratt Street to Hollins Street, to ensure the law accurately reflects current geographic descriptions within the district.

Senate Bill 972 provides a carefully tailored tool to support neighborhood-based economic development while preserving accountability and oversight.

By enabling restaurants in the 40th District to obtain the licenses they need to operate successfully, Senate Bill 972 helps create opportunities for small businesses, supports local jobs, and contributes to the continued revitalization of Baltimore City's commercial corridors.

This Act will take effect on July 1, 2026.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 972.

Respectfully,

Senator Antonio L. Hayes

40th Legislative District – MD

**Position: Favorable**