

GARY SIMMONS
Legislative District 12B
Anne Arundel County

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees

Criminal Law and Procedure

Family and Juvenile Law



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Delegate Gary Simmons in support of HB874, legislation that strengthens transparency, accountability, and representation within the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners.

HB874 increases the Board's membership from three to five members, allowing for broader representation and more balanced decision-making on matters that directly affect businesses and residents throughout Anne Arundel County. Given the significant responsibility the Board holds in issuing and enforcing retail alcoholic beverage licenses, expanding its membership ensures a diversity of perspectives and enhances public confidence in its decisions.

The bill thoughtfully establishes guardrails to preserve fairness and nonpartisanship. Members must be appointed by the Governor from a list recommended by the Anne Arundel County House and Senate delegations, ensuring local input in the appointment process. Additionally, no more than three members may belong to the same political party, and no more than two members may reside in the same legislative district. These provisions promote geographic and political balance while maintaining the Board's integrity.

This legislation requires the Board to adopt and publish a written conflict-of-interest and recusal policy. This measure reinforces ethical standards, increases transparency, and provides clear expectations for Board members when handling sensitive licensing matters.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB874.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Delegate Gary Simmons
Anne Arundel County, District 8