

Wayne B. Harris  
CHAIRMAN



2011-D COMMERCE PARK DR.  
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

(410) 222-1148  
FAX: (410) 222-1810

Bernadette L. Snoops  
COMMISSIONER

Charley C. Sung  
COMMISSIONER

## BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

**Date:** February 19, 2026

**To:** The Honorable Chair and Members  
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

**RE: House Bill 519 – Written Testimony (Support)**

The Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners respectfully submits this written testimony in support of House Bill 519.

This legislation modernizes the entertainment permit structure by replacing outdated terminology with clearly defined tiers that reflect the actual scope of activity at licensed establishments. The proposal maintains the existing fee structure while providing a consistent regulatory framework that improves clarity for licensees, enforcement personnel, and the community.

The enclosed summary provides the operational and fiscal details for the Committee's consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EA'.

Edward I. Aronson  
Executive Director  
Board of License Commissioners  
for Anne Arundel County

## **HOUSE BILL 519: ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT TIERS**

**SUBJECT:** Modernization of Entertainment Permits

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT:** This proposal modernizes the entertainment permit structure to address confusion caused by outdated terminology—specifically the tier labeled "Dancing," which technically covers *any* legal form of entertainment. The new framework renames the tiers to accurately reflect the scope of activity, creating a clearer distinction between standard entertainment and venues with permanent dance floors and stages.

### **PROPOSED PERMIT TIERS:**

#### **Tier I: Background Entertainment Permit**

- **Authorized Activity:** Operation of piped-in background music, recorded music, and unlimited television screens.

#### **Tier II: General Entertainment Permit**

- **Authorized Activity:** Includes all Tier I privileges, plus:
  - Live music (limited to a maximum of four musicians)
  - Disc Jockey (DJ) services
  - Trivia games and Karaoke

#### **Tier III: Full Entertainment Permit**

- **Authorized Activity:** Includes all Tier I and II privileges, plus:
  - Utilization of a permanent dance floor
  - Designated stage area
  - Floor shows and other forms of legal entertainment

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None. All annual fees remain unchanged.