



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB0020

January 29, 2026

TO: Members of the Government, Labor and Elections Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 0020 – Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Related Event Promoter's Permit

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr and members of the committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 0020.

HB 0020 would reestablish a related event promoter's permit in Baltimore City; authorizing the Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) for Baltimore City to issue a related event promoter's permit to certain applicants under certain circumstances. It incorporates a few technical changes to the permit process and structure for event promoters during the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Basketball Tournament week terminating on June 30, 2029.

In 2019, Chapter 764 initially authorized the BLLC to identify when and where CIAA-related but non-sponsored/sanctioned events are happening during the tournament week in order to create more productive and beneficial cross collaboration. The enactment of Chapter 764 in 2019 and Chapter 391 in 2023 have been highly successful in ensuring that all activity related to the Tournament is appropriately coordinated in order to maximize the impact on both the City and attendees.

In 2025, the CIAA Basketball Tournament welcomed 32,350 total attendees. The City saw participants and spectators spend \$15.1 million at off-site establishments in the local economy, including local restaurants, hotels, retailers, and other recreation/entertainment venues, 30% of which was spent in the food & beverage sector. With the passage of HB0020, this event will continue to be a highly impactful economic driver for the City through 2029.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB0020.