



Affiliate of The Maryland Association of Counties, Inc.

February 19, 2026

TO: Members of the Health Committee

FROM: Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors

RE: HB 766 (SB 623) Retail Tobacco Businesses and Establishment of a Premium Cigar Lounge Alcoholic Beverages License (Maryland Premium Cigar Lounge Act of 2026)

The Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors (Conference) offers this Letter of Support with Amendments for HB 766 and SB 623. In their capacity as the State's twenty-four Environmental Health Directors, the Conference executes delegated authorities from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). One of these delegated duties is the approval of Food Service Facility Licenses.

The Conference proposes the following amendment:

Page 2: After Line 20 include the following language:

(III): Is not a Licensed Food Service Facility as per Health General 21-301

Additionally, the Conference is concerned that retail tobacco licensed facilities not meeting the definition of a tobacconist as defined in this Bill are currently being issued local liquor licenses.

Therefore, the Conference provides this Letter of Support with Amendments for HB 766 and SB 623. If you have further questions concerning this written testimony, please contact:

For more information:

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