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BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
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March 13, 2017

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway
Chairwoman
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland State Senate
Miller Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB1087 – Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – Protest of License Renewal

Chairwoman Conway,


On behalf of the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) I respectfully request a **favorable report** for SB1087 – Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – Protest of License Renewal.

SB1087 would authorize the Board to require a license holder and protestants – individuals who file a protest petition against the renewal of a license holder's license – to participate in mediation before a public hearing on the protest of renewal issue with a mediator selected by the Board or participants. Currently, upon the filing of a valid protest of renewal the Board only has the legal authority to the Board to hold a public hearing and renew or deny the renewal application filed by the license holder.

The passage of SB1087 would provide the Board with a third option requiring all participants to attend mediation. At this mediation, the license holder and protestants, or their representatives, would have an opportunity to discuss the grievances which brought about the filing of the protest petition. In addition, these parties may work together to draft a Memorandum of Understanding or other agreement to resolve any operational issues before a protest of renewal hearing. If successful, then the Board has the authority to dismiss the protest of renewal and renew the license. If unsuccessful, the Board shall hold a protest of renewal hearing to determine whether the renewal application should be approved or denied.

For the reasons stated, BLLC respectfully requests a favorable report on SB1087. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of my staff.

Sincerely,


Albert J. Matricciani, Jr.
Chairman
Board of Liquor License Commissioners
For Baltimore City