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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: SB1122 – Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – Transfer of License – Hardship Extension

Chairwoman Conway,

On behalf of the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) I respectfully request a **favorable report** for SB1122 – Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – Transfer of License – Hardship Extension.


As per Alc. Bev. Art. §12-1705, a transfer applicant has only 180 days after Board approval to have the license issued in his or her name or the transfer application expires. SB1122 would authorize the Board to hold a public hearing and grant an extension to a transfer applicant for an additional 360 days after receiving approval from the Board for the purposes of issuance, if the applicant can show that a hardship caused a delay in transferring the license within 180 days after the Board's original approval.

Prior to 2015, the Board had utilized the process of holding hardship extension hearings under the former Art. 2B §10-504(d) and granted additional time to a transfer applicant to complete the transfer process. On April 15, 2015 Attorney General Brian Frosh issued 100 Op. Att'y Gen. 029 (2015), which held that the Board could no longer utilize Art. 2B §10-504(d) to extend the completion of the transfer process.

The passage of SB1122 will provide the legal framework to allow the Board to grant hardship extensions to transfer applicants if they cannot complete the transfer application process within 180 days after Board approval.

For the reasons stated, BLLC respectfully requests a favorable report on SB1122. 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