



To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business

**House Bill 333: Montgomery County - Alcoholic Beverages - Micro-Breweries and Farm Breweries
MC 18-19**

Economic Matters

February 18, 2019

SUPPORT

House Bill 333 expands the privileges of a brewery that holds a Class 7 micro-brewery license, Class 8 farm brewery license, or Class 7 limited beer wholesaler's license in Montgomery County.

The Maryland General Assembly has a tradition of having each County Delegation decide how to regulate alcoholic beverages within their County. This is the basis for the Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control. Statutes similar to the provisions of House Bill 333 already exist in Wicomico County law.

House Bill 333 makes Montgomery County more attractive to entrepreneurs and investors and consumers consistently express a desire to buy products that are produced locally. The evolution of the craft beer industry has brought manufacturing jobs back to local facilities due to the popularity of local craft beer. Consumers are shifting to buying locally manufactured craft beer, if they can find it. Furthermore, production and self- distribution caps inhibit the opportunity of local Montgomery County breweries to have large export markets in the District and Virginia.

For these reasons, **we request an House Bill 333 be given a favorable report.**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our nearly 500 members by advocating for increased business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.