



To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business

**HOUSE BILL 315: MONTGOMERY COUNTY - ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES –
CLASS A AGENCY STORE BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSES MC 18-17**

ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 20, 2017

SUPPORT

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce ("MCCC"), as the voice of Montgomery County business, **supports House Bill 315** which authorizes the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners, subject to the approval of the county executive, to establish a Class A Agency Store beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license.

When businesses succeed, our community prospers. At the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), our goal is to accelerate the success of our members. We work closely with our colleagues in other business organizations to identify and promote areas of opportunity for business to succeed in and contribute to a vibrant economy, which is the foundation of a strong community.

MCCC supports efforts that seek to update Prohibition-era laws and regulations related to the wholesale distribution and retail sale of alcoholic beverages in Montgomery County. We believe that MC 18-17 addresses one of the many concerns with the current system of Department of Liquor Control, that is lack of convenience for consumers. Data shows that Montgomery County consumption of spirits is considerably lower than average rates in Maryland, the United States and nearby jurisdictions such as the District of Columbia.

The proposal demonstrates that the private sector is well-positioned to meet the needs of consumers in Montgomery County. Providing the ability for small businesses to carry products including spirits that meet the needs of their customers is a win-win.

For these reasons, we request a **favorable report** on House Bill 315.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our 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.

Gigi Godwin, President and CEO
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
51 Monroe Street, Suite 1800 Rockville, MD 20850
301-738-0015 www.mccc.md.com