



To Lead, Advocate, and Connect as the Voice of Business

House Bill 428 - Montgomery County – Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Annual Fees (MC 19-21)

Economic Matters Committee

February 19, 2021

SUPPORT

House Bill 428 would exempt bars and restaurants in Montgomery County from paying alcohol license fees in the 2021-2022 licensing period and would permit the county to refund the 2020-2021 fees. This legislation would directly support a hard-hit industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. These fees can run up to \$2500 per licensing period.

Over the last 11 months, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) has been advocating at the local, state, and federal level on behalf of our members. MCCC has also hosted webinars on best practices in this new COVID-19 world. And through these webinars, and in advocating for our members, what we are hearing is essential to a business' survival is the infusion of cash AND the ability for a business to hold onto their reserves.

This legislation would allow our restaurants and bars to hold onto cash and helps an industry that remains one of the most impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, the restaurant and bar industry will be one of the last to return to a sense of normalcy. Any additional relief so these key small businesses can survive the public health emergency and continue to employ our neighbors and grow our economy is essential.

For the aforementioned reasons, **the Chamber strongly supports House Bill 428 and respectfully urges 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.

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