

MC 21-25

Montgomery County Alcohol Beverage Licenses

There is a clear correlation between alcohol outlet density and the well being of a community that should be taken into account when approving new alcohol establishments. According to the CDC, about 178,000 people in the US died from excessive drinking each year in 2020 and 2021, which is an increase from 2016-2017 where there were 138,000 deaths annually¹. A study on Baltimore City found that if alcohol outlet density was decreased by 1 quintile, it would result in 51 less homicides a year, 764 less disability-adjusted life years (DALYs), and \$63.7 million less in victim and criminal justice system costs ².

Current statute does not require the county boards responsible for approving new alcohol licenses to take into account the other already established outlets in the area and the potential impact of another one on public health and safety in the community.

This bill will:

✓ Require the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners to consider the cumulative impact of alcohol outlet density and community testimony on health and safety impacts when approving new licenses.

Below is the amendment language requested to replace the current language of the bill.

“In approving or denying a new licence, the Board shall also consider:

- (1) THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY BASED ON THE IMPACT OF THE DENSITY OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS LICENSED TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR OFF–PREMISES CONSUMPTION IN THE AREA AND THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF THE NUMBER OF LICENSED ESTABLISHMENTS ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY
- (2) TESTIMONY RELATED TO THE IMPACT ON THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC BASED ON THE NUMBER OF LICENSES ISSUED FOR OFF–PREMISES CONSUMPTION IN THE AREA”

For more information please contact:

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¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/facts-stats/index.html>

² Trangenstein PJ, Eck RH, Lu Y, Webster D, Jennings JM, Latkin C, Milam AJ, Furr-Holden D, Jernigan DH. The Violence Prevention Potential of Reducing Alcohol Outlet Access in Baltimore, Maryland. J Stud Alcohol Drugs. 2020 Jan;81(1):24-33. doi: 10.15288/jsad.2020.81.24. PMID: 32048598; PMCID: PMC7024813. [link](#)