

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 09-0169R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Henry, D'Adamo, Clarke, Middleton, Kraft
Introduced and read first time: November 2, 2009
Assigned to: Community Development Subcommittee

Committee Report: Favorable with an amendment
Adopted: January 11, 2010

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Request for State Legislation - Operation of Bottle Clubs and the Transfer of Bottle Club Registrations

FOR the purpose of requesting the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the 2010 Maryland General Assembly to introduce legislation governing the operation of Bottle Clubs and the transfer of Bottle Club Registrations.

Recitals

State law authorizes the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City to issue Bottle Club Registrations governing any establishment that serves, gives, or allows alcoholic beverages to be consumed by patrons from supplies that the patrons previously purchased or reserved.

While many registrants may be upstanding corporate citizens, trying hard to be good neighbors to their surrounding residents, the potential for a clash between community residents and registrants who see their business as nothing more than an opportunity to make money without regard to their disruptive patrons, is real.

Since bottle club registrants are not permitted to sell alcohol, but simply allow patrons to consume alcohol that they have previously purchased or reserved, the need for stricter provisions regulating where these registrations may be placed, who shall be permitted to receive such a registration and the regulation of alcohol consumption in these establishments is vital to protect communities from the ills typical of over consumption of alcohol and negligent management: public urination/defecation; violence; public drunkenness; loud noise; destruction of property, etc.

One of the current threats to communities is that if the Board of Liquor License Commissioners revokes or denies the renewal of a liquor license because a licensee has demonstrated that he or she is incapable of or unwilling to manage the establishment in a manner that is respectful of the community in which it is located, that individual is allowed to register for a bottle club. Bad actors should not be allowed to profit even when they have been found guilty of systematic violations of the liquor laws.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken by amendment.

