

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

Chapter 480 (Senate Bill No. 142). This bill undertook to change the provisions for the licensing of hotels as to liquor license privileges. The Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City vigorously opposed the change and pointed out that eight Baltimore hotels, now licensed as such, would be obliged to surrender their present licenses if this bill were signed. This would result from the fact that their average daily receipts from the hire of rooms and the sale of foods do not exceed the average daily receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages.

The Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City further point out that it is doubtful whether some of these hotels could even qualify for the ordinary six-day license known as Class D License, because of the requirement that the means of observance from the street be afforded to any sales rooms.

The Board in requesting veto, stated that the eight hotels in question had paid for their \$750.00 license and that if this bill were signed, there would be no provision for refund of such fees.

The Maryland Alcoholic Beverage Committee, Inc., also requested veto, stating that it would have an adverse effect upon proper regulation.

The Senator from the Fifth District of Baltimore City, who introduced and was the principal sponsor of the bill, displayed a very fair-minded attitude when subsequent developments were brought to his attention. He has conferred with me and I am convinced that he now has no objection to the veto of this proposed measure.

Chapter 872 (Senate Bill 404). By the terms of this proposed law, license fees in Carroll County would be increased as well as the compensation of License Commissioners, through amendment to the general law regarding certain classes of liquor licenses.

I held a public hearing on this matter following the adjournment of the Legislature at which protesting attorneys pointed out the disparities which would exist to the detriment of licensees in Carroll County. Section 4, sub-section D, provides that licensees in Carroll County shall be charged a different fee than elsewhere in the State. Furthermore, under Section 6-A, this scale of fees is charged in Carroll County, based upon gross legal sales during the previous year. Apparently general discussion of the proposed changes was not possible and while I do not wish to take the position that these proposals are unsound and unreasonable, I think that the changes, if made, should be brought about after a more extensive discussion of all the facts.