

CB 58-2021



Council Bill 58-2021
Emergency Act - Extending Temporary Outdoor Restaurant Seating

July 28, 2021

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Howard County Councilmembers:

The *Restaurant Association of Maryland* supports Council Bill 58-2021, and we appreciate the County Executive understanding the importance of extending outdoor restaurant seating permits.

The restaurant industry has been particularly hard hit by the COVID pandemic and related restrictions. Our industry remains in recovery mode, and it will likely take several years for the restaurant industry to fully recuperate from financial losses and rebuild business to pre-pandemic levels.

Although capacity and operating restrictions have been lifted, outdoor restaurant seating continues to provide additional seating space and allows restaurants to accommodate customers who may not be comfortable with indoor dining. Extending the use of temporary outdoor restaurant seating permits will help Howard County restaurants on the long road to recovery.

We respectfully request your support of Council Bill 58-2021. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melvin R. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Melvin R. Thompson
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs and Public Policy