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By: **Delegates Conway, Bozman, McClenahan, and Cane**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 14, 2000

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CHAPTER 383

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wicomico County - Alcoholic Beverages - Wine Tasting and Sampling**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Board of License Commissioners to issue a wine  
4 tasting (WT) license for wine tasting and sampling events; restricting license  
5 holders to certain persons; specifying an annual license fee; providing for the  
6 application and renewal of a license; allowing a license applicant to request a  
7 public hearing under certain circumstances; restricting the amount of wine that  
8 may be served in a certain way; restricting the number of bottles that may be  
9 opened at one time at an event; restricting the number of days during which  
10 events may be held; requiring certain procedures to be followed during an event;  
11 and generally relating to wine tasting licenses issued in Wicomico County.

12 BY adding to  
13 Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages  
14 Section 8-412  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages**

20 8-412.

21 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN WICOMICO COUNTY.

1 (B) (1) THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS MAY ISSUE A WINE  
2 TASTING (WT) LICENSE FOR WINE TASTING AND SAMPLING.

3 (2) A WT LICENSE MAY BE ISSUED ONLY TO A HOLDER OF A CLASS A  
4 BEER AND WINE (OFF-SALE) LICENSE.

5 (C) THE ANNUAL WT LICENSE FEE IS \$150.

6 (D) (1) AN APPLICATION FOR A WT LICENSE SHALL BE MADE ON A FORM  
7 THAT THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS PROVIDES.

8 (2) A RENEWAL OF THE WT LICENSE MAY BE MADE AT THE TIME THE  
9 CLASS A BEER AND WINE (OFF-SALE) LICENSE IS RENEWED.

10 (3) THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS MAY GRANT A WT  
11 LICENSE WITHOUT A HEARING.

12 (4) IF APPLICATION FOR A WT LICENSE IS DENIED, THE APPLICANT MAY  
13 REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS.

14 (E) (1) A WT LICENSE HOLDER MAY NOT SERVE TO ANY PERSON FOR  
15 SAMPLING OR TASTING PURPOSES MORE THAN 1 OUNCE FROM EACH BRAND.

16 (2) A MAXIMUM OF SIX BOTTLES MAY BE OPENED AT ANY ONE TIME AT A  
17 WINE SAMPLING OR TASTING EVENT.

18 (3) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS DURING WHICH WINE SAMPLING OR  
19 TASTING EVENTS ARE HELD MAY NOT EXCEED 15 IN ANY PERIOD FOR WHICH A WT  
20 LICENSE IS IN EFFECT.

21 (4) A WT LICENSE HOLDER SHALL NOTIFY THE BOARD OF LICENSE  
22 COMMISSIONERS IN WRITING AT LEAST 5 DAYS BEFORE A WINE SAMPLING OR  
23 TASTING EVENT.

24 (5) ONCE OPENED, EACH BOTTLE USED FOR A WINE SAMPLING OR  
25 TASTING EVENT SHALL BE MARKED THAT IT IS TO BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE  
26 ONLY.

27 (6) THE CONTENTS OF EACH BOTTLE MAY NOT BE MIXED WITH ANY  
28 OTHER BOTTLE, AND ALL BOTTLES SHALL BE DESTROYED ONCE THEY ARE EMPTY.

29 (F) (1) A WT LICENSE IS FOR ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION ONLY.

30 (2) WINE SAMPLING OR TASTING MAY NOT BE CONDUCTED FROM A  
31 DRIVE-THROUGH WINDOW.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
33 October 1, 2000.

