
By: **Delegate Eckardt**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2002

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Caroline County - Alcoholic Beverages - Sales to Underage Drinkers and**
3 **Intoxicated Persons**

4 FOR the purpose of exempting Caroline County from certain procedures and
5 penalties regarding the charging of a licensee or an employee of a licensee with
6 the sale or furnishing of alcoholic beverages to an underage drinker or to a
7 person who is visibly under the influence of an alcoholic beverage; and generally
8 relating to the sale of alcoholic beverages to underage drinkers or intoxicated
9 persons in Caroline County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages
12 Section 12-108(a)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2001 Replacement Volume)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages
17 Section 12-108(c)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2001 Replacement Volume)

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

22 **Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages**

23 12-108.

24 (a) (1) A licensee licensed under this article, or any employee of the licensee,
25 may not sell or furnish any alcoholic beverages at any time to a person under 21 years
26 of age:

27 (i) For the underage person's own use or for the use of any other
28 person; or

1 (ii) To any person who, at the time of the sale, or delivery, is visibly
2 under the influence of any alcoholic beverage.

3 (2) Any licensee or any employee of the licensee who is charged with a
4 violation of this subsection shall receive a summons to appear in court on a certain
5 day to answer the charges placed against that person. The person charged may not be
6 required to post bail bond pending trial in any court of this State.

7 (3) (i) A licensee or employee of the licensee violating any of the
8 provisions of this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, suffers
9 the penalties provided by § 16-503 of this article.

10 (ii) A licensee or employee of the licensee who is charged with
11 selling or furnishing any alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 years of age may
12 not be found guilty of a violation of this subsection, if the person establishes to the
13 satisfaction of the jury or the court sitting as a jury that the person used due caution
14 to establish that the person under 21 years of age was not, in fact, a person under 21
15 years of age if a nonresident of the State.

16 (iii) If the person is a resident of the State of Maryland, the licensee
17 or employee of the licensee may accept, as proof of a person's age, the display of the
18 person's driver's license or identification card as provided for in the Maryland Vehicle
19 Law.

20 (iv) Except as otherwise provided in this section, if any licensee or
21 employee of the licensee is found not guilty, or placed on probation without a verdict,
22 of any alleged violation of this subsection, this finding operates as a complete bar to
23 any proceeding by any alcoholic beverage law enforcement or licensing authorities
24 against the licensee on account of the alleged violation.

25 (c) (1) This subsection applies only in the following counties:

26 (i) CAROLINE COUNTY;

27 (II) Carroll County;

28 [(ii)] (III) Frederick County;

29 [(iii)] (IV) Harford County;

30 [(iv)] (V) Somerset County;

31 [(v)] (VI) Talbot County; and

32 [(vi)] (VII) Wicomico County.

33 (2) A licensee under the provisions of this article, or any of the licensee's
34 employees, may not sell or furnish any alcoholic beverages at any time to a person
35 under 21 years of age, either for that person's own use or for the use of any other

1 person, or to any person who, at the time of such sale or delivery, is visibly under the
2 influence of any alcoholic beverage.

3 (3) The Liquor Control Board of Harford County may not find a licensee
4 guilty of violating this section if the licensee or employee of the licensee who is
5 accused of selling or furnishing alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 years of age
6 exercised due caution to establish that the person was not, in fact, a person under 21
7 years of age.

8 (4) In Harford County, a licensee who is charged with selling or
9 furnishing alcoholic beverages to an underage person may not be found in violation of
10 paragraph (2) of this subsection if the licensee establishes to the satisfaction of the
11 judge, jury, or Liquor Control Board that the licensee used due caution to establish
12 that the person was not, in fact, underage.

13 (5) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section do not apply to the
14 counties which are listed in paragraph (1) of this subsection and the law in these
15 counties shall remain in the same force and effect as if not amended by this section.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
17 effect July 1, 2002.