

# HOUSE BILL 794

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5lr2474  
CF SB 634

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By: **Washington County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2015

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2015

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington County – Liquor Tasting License**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a special liquor tasting license to be issued in Washington  
4 County; authorizing the license to be issued only to a holder of Class A (off-sale)  
5 beer, wine and liquor license; establishing the annual license fee; authorizing the  
6 Board of License Commissioners for Washington County to issue the license for  
7 certain purposes; prohibiting the holder of the license from charging for the liquor  
8 tasting or sampling; providing for the number of days in a licensing year that the  
9 license is effective; requiring the licensee to notify the Board in writing a certain  
10 number of days in advance of a scheduled tasting date; prohibiting a licensee from  
11 holding more than one liquor, beer, or wine tasting event on the same day; limiting  
12 the number of bottles that may be open at any one time during the tasting event;  
13 prohibiting the contents of certain bottles from being mixed; requiring certain bottles  
14 to be destroyed; limiting the number of servings for each customer; requiring the  
15 Board to adopt regulations; defining a certain term; and generally relating to a  
16 special liquor tasting license in Washington County.

17 BY adding to  
18 Article 2B – Alcoholic Beverages  
19 Section 8–9A–02  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



## Article 2B – Alcoholic Beverages

## 8-9A-02.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “BOARD” MEANS THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY.

(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

(C) AN APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL LIQUOR TASTING LICENSE (LTL) SHALL BE MADE ON A FORM THAT THE BOARD PROVIDES.

(D) A SPECIAL LIQUOR TASTING LICENSE (LTL) MAY BE ISSUED ONLY TO A HOLDER OF A CLASS A (OFF-SALE) BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR LICENSE.

(E) THE ANNUAL LICENSE FEE IS \$300 FOR 12 TASTINGS AND \$500 FOR 24 TASTINGS.

(F) THE BOARD MAY ISSUE A SPECIAL LIQUOR TASTING LICENSE (LTL) TO PERMIT ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR FOR TASTING OR SAMPLING PURPOSES ONLY.

(G) THE HOLDER OF A SPECIAL LIQUOR TASTING LICENSE MAY NOT CHARGE FOR THE LIQUOR TASTING OR SAMPLING.

(H) (1) THE LICENSE IS EFFECTIVE FOR USE NO MORE THAN 12 DAYS IN A LICENSING YEAR FOR A 12-TASTING LICENSE AND 24 DAYS IN A LICENSING YEAR FOR A 24-TASTING LICENSE.

(2) THE LICENSEE SHALL NOTIFY THE BOARD IN WRITING AT LEAST 10 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF ANY SCHEDULED TASTING DATE.

(3) A LICENSEE MAY NOT HOLD MORE THAN ONE LIQUOR, BEER, OR WINE TASTING EVENT ON THE SAME DAY.

(I) (1) A MAXIMUM OF FOUR BOTTLES MAY BE OPEN AT ANY ONE TIME AT A LIQUOR TASTING EVENT.

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

(J) SERVINGS ARE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN ONE-HALF OUNCE OF ANY ONE LIQUOR TO ANY ONE CUSTOMER AND ONLY FOUR SAMPLES PER CUSTOMER.

1           **(K) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE**  
2 **PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.**

3           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4 October 1, 2015.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.