

Chapter 232

(House Bill 246)

AN ACT concerning

Frederick County – Alcoholic Beverages – Notice for License Applications, Fees, and Inspectors

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Frederick County to fulfill a certain notice requirement for license applications by posting online a completed application with all submitted documents on or before a certain date; eliminating the fees for a certain certificate of permission and a certain new license; repealing the requirement that the Governor appoint for the county a full-time alcoholic beverages inspector; repealing the qualifications for appointment and term of the inspector; repealing the authority of the Governor to remove the inspector; repealing the grounds for removing the inspector; authorizing the Board to appoint a chief alcoholic beverages inspector and a certain number of full-time or part-time alcoholic beverages inspectors; specifying the qualifications and duties of the inspectors; specifying an additional duty of the chief inspector; providing for the compensation and travel reimbursement for inspectors; making certain technical and clarifying corrections; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses and inspectors in Frederick County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article 2B – Alcoholic Beverages
Section 10–202(a)(1), 10–506(a), and 15–103
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2011 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

Article 2B – Alcoholic Beverages

10–202.

(a) (1) (i) **[Before] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, BEFORE** the Board of License Commissioners for Baltimore City or any county approves any application for a license, the Board shall cause a notice of the application to be published two times in two successive weeks:

1. For Baltimore City licensee applicants – in three newspapers of general circulation in Baltimore City.

2. For county licensee applicants – in two newspapers of general circulation in the county where two newspapers are published, and if not, then in one newspaper having a general circulation in the county.

(II) IN FREDERICK COUNTY, THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS MAY FULFILL THE NOTICE REQUIREMENT OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH BY POSTING ONLINE A COMPLETED APPLICATION WITH ALL SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS AT LEAST 14 DAYS BEFORE THE HEARING DATE.

[(ii)] (III) The notice shall specify the name of the applicant, the kind of license for which application is made, the location of the place of business proposed to be licensed, and the time and place fixed by the board for a hearing on the application.

[(iii)] (IV) The hearing may not be less than seven nor more than 30 days after the last publication.

[(iv)] (V) At the time fixed by the notice for a hearing on the application or on any postponement of the time, any person shall be heard on either side of the question.

10–506.

(a) **(1)** [Upon] **SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ON** the death of the holder of any license issued under this article other than Class E, Class F and Class G licenses, the license shall expire.

(2) (I) [However,] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,** upon application to the Comptroller or local licensing board, as the case may be, that granted the license, and upon the payment of a fee of one dollar (\$1.00), made by the executors or administrators of the deceased licensee to the Comptroller or local collecting agent, as the case may be, a certificate of permission may be granted for the continuation of the business in the name of the executors or administrators for the benefit of the estate of the deceased.

(II) IN FREDERICK COUNTY, A FEE MAY NOT BE CHARGED FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PERMISSION.

(3) The certificate of permission may be granted for a period not exceeding 18 months from the date of the granted permission, unless the license expires earlier.

(4) If the license does expire earlier, upon application by the executor or administrator, a renewal license may be granted for a period not exceeding 18 months after the death of the license holder.

(5) Such certificates of permission and renewal licenses issued will be subject to the right of protest, revocation, suspension and restriction as in other cases, upon the payment of a pro rata license fee for such period, and during the period of such continuation the said license and the executors or administrators of the deceased shall be subject to the provisions of the Tax – General Article that relate to the alcoholic beverage tax and all of the provisions of this article.

(6) The said administrator or executor to which the aforesaid certificate of permission has been granted may assign or transfer said license for the benefit of said estate, and upon the approval of the application for said transfer or assignment, the said license shall be considered reinstated upon the payment of the balance of the license fee which might be due to the expiration of the license year.

(7) If the business of the licensee be not continued as above provided, or if the said license be not transferred or assigned, his executors or administrators shall be authorized to apply for and obtain any refund to which the deceased would have been entitled if his license had been surrendered for cancellation upon the date of his death.

(8) No Class E, Class F or Class G license shall expire or become inoperative because of the death and/or incompetency of one or more, but less than all, of the persons to whom it is issued for a company.

(9) (i) [If] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, IF** all of the persons to whom it is so issued shall die and/or become incompetent during its term, such license shall expire ten days thereafter, but, upon application within such ten days, accompanied by a fee payment of \$1.00 by a person on behalf of such company, the Comptroller shall issue a new license replacing, and containing the privileges of, such license to the end of the license year.

(ii) IN FREDERICK COUNTY, A FEE MAY NOT BE CHARGED FOR A NEW LICENSE.

15–103.

- (a) (1) There is a Board of License Commissioners in Frederick County.
- (2) The Board consists of 3 members.
- (3) The Governor shall appoint the members of the Board.
- (4) To qualify for appointment to the Board, a person:
 - (i) Shall be of good moral character and integrity;
 - (ii) Shall reasonably reflect the citizenry of the county; and

(iii) Shall be a registered voter of the county and shall continue to be a registered voter of the county during the person's term of office.

(5) The term of a member is 5 years.

(6) The terms of the members are staggered as required by the terms provided for members of the Board on July 1, 1989.

(7) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

(8) The Governor may remove a member for incompetence, misconduct, neglect of a duty required by law, unprofessional conduct, or dishonorable conduct.

(9) The removal procedure is as provided in this article.

(b) From among its members, the Board shall elect a chairperson.

(c) (1) A majority of the members then serving on the Board is a quorum.

(2) The Board shall meet at least once a month.

(3) The chairperson of the Board shall receive an annual compensation of \$7,000 and be reimbursed for reasonable expenses.

(4) The members shall receive an annual compensation of \$6,500 and be reimbursed for reasonable expenses.

(d) [(1) The Governor shall appoint 1 alcoholic beverages inspector, with the advice and consent of:

(i) The Senate; or

(ii) If there is no resident Senator, then with the consent of the members of the Frederick County delegation of the General Assembly.

(2) To qualify for appointment as an alcoholic beverages inspector, a person:

(i) Shall be of high moral character;

(ii) Shall possess a sound reputation for sobriety, honesty, and integrity; and

(iii) Shall devote full time to the duties of the office.

- (3) (i) The term of an inspector is 5 years.
- (ii) An inspector who is appointed after a term has begun serves only until a successor is appointed.
- (4) The Governor may remove an inspector with the advice and consent of:
 - (i) The Senate; or
 - (ii) If there is no resident Senator, then with the consent of the members of the Frederick County delegation of the General Assembly.
- (5) Grounds for removal are:
 - (i) Incompetence;
 - (ii) Misconduct while performing the duties as an inspector;
 - (iii) Neglect of a duty required by law; or
 - (iv) Unprofessional or dishonorable conduct in performing the duties as an inspector.
- (6) (i) An inspector shall receive an annual salary as set by the County Commissioners, be reimbursed for reasonable expenses, and receive mileage at the standard rate set by the County Commissioners.
- (ii) Mileage does not include travel to and from the inspector's home and office.
- (7) An inspector shall:
 - (i) Possess the power of a peace officer of this State with respect to the enforcement of the alcoholic beverages laws of Frederick County;
 - (ii) Make monthly reports in writing to the Board covering the activities and setting forth any complaints or violations that may have been observed or reported;
 - (iii) Assist the Board in enforcing the alcoholic beverages laws; and
 - (iv) Have any other duties as the Board may prescribe.
- (e) (1) The Board may appoint [not]:
 - (I) **ONE CHIEF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INSPECTOR; AND**

(II) NOT more than [two]:

1. ONE FULL-TIME ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INSPECTOR IN ADDITION TO THE CHIEF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INSPECTOR; OR

2. TWO part-time alcoholic beverages inspectors.

(2) To qualify for appointment as [a part-time] AN alcoholic beverages inspector **OF ANY TYPE**, a person shall:

(i) Be of high moral character; and

(ii) Possess a sound reputation for sobriety, honesty, and integrity.

(3) [A part-time] AN alcoholic beverages inspector **OF ANY TYPE** shall:

(i) Possess the power of a peace officer of the State with respect to the enforcement of the alcoholic beverages laws of Frederick County;

(ii) Make monthly reports in writing to the Board covering the activities and setting forth any complaints or violations that may have been observed or reported;

(iii) Assist the Board in enforcing the alcoholic beverages laws; and

(iv) Have any other duties that the Board may require.

(4) IN ADDITION TO THE DUTIES LISTED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE CHIEF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INSPECTOR SHALL DETERMINE THE HOURS AND ASSIGNMENTS OF ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INSPECTORS.

[(4)] (5) [A part-time] AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES inspector OF ANY TYPE shall:

(i) Receive the compensation set by the **GOVERNING BODY OF THE** County [Commissioners] and provided for in the county budget;

(ii) Be reimbursed for reasonable expenses; and

(iii) Receive reimbursement for mileage at the standard rate set by the **GOVERNING BODY OF THE** County [Commissioners].

[(5)] (6) Reimbursement for mileage does not include travel to and from the [part-time] inspector's home and office.

[(f)] (E) The chairperson of the Board, with the approval of the **GOVERNING BODY OF THE** County **[Commissioners]**, may employ the clerical assistants necessary to carry out the duties of the Board and the salary of the clerical assistants shall be set by the **GOVERNING BODY OF THE** County **[Commissioners]** and provided for in the county budget.

[(g)] (F) (1) (i) ~~[(A Commissioner,] THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, A MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL,~~ **THE CHIEF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INSPECTOR, A full-time [or] ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INSPECTOR, A part-time ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES inspector, or AN employee of the Board may not:**

1. Have any interest, directly or indirectly, either proprietary or by means of any loan, mortgage, or lien, or in any other manner, in or to any premises where alcoholic beverages are manufactured or sold;

2. Have any interest, directly or indirectly, in any business wholly or partially devoted to the manufacture or sale of alcoholic beverages; or

3. Own any stock in any corporation which has any interest, proprietary or otherwise, directly or indirectly, in any premises where alcoholic beverages are manufactured or sold or in any business wholly or partially devoted to the manufacture or sale of alcoholic beverages, or hold any other public office or employment.

(ii) ~~[(A Commissioner,] THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, A MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL,~~ **THE CHIEF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INSPECTOR, A full-time [or] ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INSPECTOR, A part-time ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES inspector, or AN employee of the Board may not solicit or receive, directly or indirectly, any commission, remuneration, or gift whatsoever from any person or corporation engaged in the manufacture or sale of beer or other alcoholic beverages, from any licensee, licensed under the provisions of this article.**

(iii) A person or corporation engaged in the manufacture or sale of beer or other alcoholic beverages, any agent or employee of that person or corporation, and any licensee licensed under the provisions of this article may not, directly or indirectly, offer to pay any commission, profit, or remuneration or make any gift to ~~[(any Commissioner,] THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, A MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL,~~ **THE CHIEF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INSPECTOR, A full-time [or] ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INSPECTOR, A part-time ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES inspector, or AN employee of the Board.**

(2) Violations of this subsection are a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.