

Article - Alcoholic Beverages

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§8–809.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Board” means the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners.

(3) “Festival” means the Montgomery County Beer Festival.

(4) “Festival organization” means a nonprofit organization that is selected by Montgomery County in accordance with subsection (b) of this section to organize a festival.

(b) In selecting a nonprofit organization to be a festival organization, Montgomery County shall ensure that the nonprofit organization has extensive experience in organizing and managing large-scale public events.

(c) Under the supervision of the Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control, the county each year may conduct the Montgomery County Beer Festival on not more than four weekends that a festival organization selects.

(d) A festival organization may contract with holders of a current Montgomery County retail alcoholic beverages license, a State Class 5 brewery license, a State Class 6 pub-brewery license, a State Class 7 micro-brewery license, or a State Class 8 farm brewery license to sell and display beer at the festival.

(e) On the days and for the hours designated for the festival, beer may be displayed and sold at retail:

(1) For consumption on the premises; and

(2) For consumption off the premises in sealed containers.

(f) A festival organization:

(1) Shall choose for the festival a location in the county that may be a licensed or an unlicensed premises; and

(2) Shall ensure that the primary focus of the festival is the promotion of Maryland beer.

(g) (1) Before a person may sell, offer for sale, or display beer at a festival, the person must contract with the festival organization and obtain a special beer festival license from the Board.

(2) The Board may issue a special beer festival license.

(3) The license fee is \$30 for each day of the festival.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person may hold a special beer festival license in addition to another license issued under this article.

(5) The Board may deny a special beer festival license to any applicant, suspend or revoke a special beer festival license, or impose a fine not exceeding \$20,000 if the applicant or license holder violates a provision of this article or the regulations of the Board.

(6) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all license fees collected under this subsection shall be deposited into the general fund of the county.

(h) The Board shall adopt regulations for implementing this section.

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