

Chapter 316

(Senate Bill 281)

AN ACT concerning

Alcoholic Beverages – Definition of Beer – Hard Cider

FOR the purpose of altering the alcoholic content of hard cider that is part of the definition of beer used in the Alcoholic Beverages Article; and generally relating to the definition of beer under the Alcoholic Beverages Article.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages
Section 1–101(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2016 Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages
Section 1–101(c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2016 Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

Article – Alcoholic Beverages

1–101.

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

(c) (1) “Beer” means a brewed alcoholic beverage.

(2) “Beer” includes:

(i) ale;

(ii) porter;

(iii) stout;

(iv) hard cider that:

1. is derived primarily from apples, apple concentrate and water, pears, or pear concentrate and water; and

2. contains no other fruit product but contains at least one-half of 1% and less than ~~[7%]~~ **8.5%** of alcohol by volume; and

(v) an alcoholic beverage that contains:

1. 6% or less alcohol by volume, derived primarily from the fermentation of grain, with not more than 49% of the alcoholic beverage's overall alcohol content by volume obtained from flavors and other added nonbeverage ingredients containing alcohol; or

2. more than 6% alcohol by volume, derived primarily from the fermentation of grain, with not more than 1.5% of the alcoholic beverage's overall alcohol content by volume obtained from flavors and other added nonbeverage ingredients containing alcohol.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor, April 18, 2017.