

Chapter 797

(House Bill 987)

AN ACT concerning

**Baltimore County – Alcoholic Beverages – ~~Distance From Place of Worship~~
~~Restriction – Exception~~ Class B–OB–CRD (Office Building – Commercial
Revitalization District) Beer, Wine, and Liquor License**

FOR the purpose of establishing a Class B–OB–CRD (office building – commercial revitalization district) beer, wine, and liquor license in Baltimore County; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Baltimore County to issue ~~a beer, wine, and liquor~~ the license to an establishment that previously had or has a certain zoning classification and is ~~within a certain distance of~~ at least a certain distance from a place of worship under certain circumstances and subject to certain limitations; providing a certain exception to a prohibition against issuing the license for an establishment that is within a certain distance of a place of worship; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Baltimore County.

BY renumbering

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

Section 13–1001.1

to be Section 13–1001.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2024 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

Section 13–102

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2024 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

Section 13–1001.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2024 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

Section 13–1601

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2024 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 13–1001.1 of Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 13–1001.2.

~~SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~
SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

13–102.

This title applies only in Baltimore County.

13–1001.1.

(A) (1) THERE IS A CLASS B–OB–CRD (OFFICE BUILDING – COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION DISTRICT) BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE.

(2) THE BOARD MAY NOT ISSUE MORE THAN ONE CLASS B–OB–CRD LICENSE IN THE COUNTY.

(B) (1) THE CLASS B–OB–CRD LICENSE MAY BE ISSUED ONLY FOR A RESTAURANT THAT:

(I) IS LOCATED IN:

1. THE TOWSON COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION DISTRICT, AS DEFINED BY THE BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL; AND

2. AN OFFICE BUILDING THAT IS AT LEAST 100,000 SQUARE FEET IN SIZE;

(II) PREVIOUSLY HAD OR HAS A ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF BM–D.T. BY THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT; AND

(III) IS AT LEAST 100 FEET FROM A PLACE OF WORSHIP.

(2) THE CLASS B–OB–CRD LICENSE AUTHORIZES THE HOLDER TO SELL:

(I) BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR FOR ON–PREMISES CONSUMPTION; AND

(II) WINE FOR OFF–PREMISES CONSUMPTION IF THE WINE:

1. IS PURCHASED ALONG WITH PREPARED FOOD OTHER THAN PREPACKAGED SNACKS; AND

2. IS NOT DISPLAYED IN AN AREA ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC.

(C) THE NUMBER OF SEATS AT THE BAR ON THE LICENSED PREMISES MAY NOT EXCEED 25% OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SEATS ON THE LICENSED PREMISES.

(D) THE LICENSE HOLDER MAY SELL BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR DURING THE HOURS AND DAYS AS SET OUT FOR A CLASS B BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE UNDER § 13-2004 OF THIS TITLE.

(E) THE ANNUAL LICENSE FEE IS EQUAL TO THE FEE FOR A CLASS B BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE UNDER § 13-902 OF THIS TITLE.

13-1601.

(a) (1) Except as provided in ~~subsection~~ **SUBSECTIONS** (b) ~~AND (C)~~ of this section, the Board may not issue a license for an establishment that is within 300 feet of a place of worship or school.

(2) The distance from the establishment to the place of worship or school is to be measured from the nearest point of the building of the establishment to the nearest point of the building of the place of worship or school.

(b) The prohibition against issuing a license in subsection (a) of this section does not apply to:

(1) the renewal or transfer of a license of an establishment if, after issuance of the license, a place of worship or school was built within 300 feet of the establishment;

(2) the issuance of a temporary license;

(3) a transfer that moves the licensed premises within the same building;

(4) a transfer of ownership of the licensed premises;

(5) the renewal of a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license or a 7-day Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license, if the licensed premises has a seating capacity of more than 50 individuals and is within a town center; ~~or~~

(6) the transfer, conversion, and issuance of a license under § 13-1710 of this title; **OR**

(7) THE ISSUANCE OF A LICENSE UNDER § 13-1001.1 OF THIS TITLE FOR AN ESTABLISHMENT WITHIN 300 FEET OF A PLACE OF WORSHIP, IF THE PLACE OF WORSHIP CONSENTS IN WRITING TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE LICENSE.

~~(C) THE PROHIBITION AGAINST ISSUING A LICENSE IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE ISSUANCE OF A BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE FOR ON OR OFF PREMISES CONSUMPTION FOR AN ESTABLISHMENT THAT IS WITHIN 300 FEET OF A PLACE OF WORSHIP IF:~~

~~(1) THE ESTABLISHMENT IS LOCATED IN THE TOWSON AREA, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD;~~

~~(2) THE ESTABLISHMENT IS LOCATED IN AN OFFICE BUILDING THAT IS AT LEAST 100,000 SQUARE FEET IN SIZE;~~

~~(3) THE ESTABLISHMENT HAS A ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF BM D.T. BY THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT;~~

~~(4) THE PLACE OF WORSHIP CONSENTS IN WRITING TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE LICENSE; AND~~

~~(5) (i) THE LICENSE IS TO APPLY TO A RESTAURANT, A MARKET, OR ANOTHER SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENT; AND~~

~~(ii) THE LICENSE IS NOT A CLASS A LICENSE.~~

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.