

HOUSE BILL 663

Q7

4lr2624

HB 867/22 – W&M & ECM

By: **Delegate Ebersole**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Alcoholic Beverage Tax – Ready-to-Drink Cocktails**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the alcoholic beverage tax rates for ready-to-drink
4 cocktails; and generally relating to alcoholic beverage taxes.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
6 Article – Tax – General
7 Section 5–101(a) and (g)
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

10 BY adding to
11 Article – Tax – General
12 Section 5–101(k)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Tax – General
17 Section 5–101(k) through (n) and 5–105
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Tax – General**

23 5–101.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (g) (1) “Distilled spirits” means a distilled alcoholic beverage.
- 2 (2) “Distilled spirits” includes:
- 3 (i) alcohol;
- 4 (ii) brandy;
- 5 (iii) cordials;
- 6 (iv) gin;
- 7 (v) liqueur;
- 8 (vi) rum;
- 9 (vii) vodka;
- 10 (viii) whiskey; and
- 11 (ix) solutions or mixtures of distilled spirits except fortified wines.

12 **(K) “READY-TO-DRINK COCKTAIL” MEANS A BEVERAGE THAT:**

13 **(1) CONTAINS DISTILLED SPIRITS MIXED WITH NONALCOHOLIC**
14 **BEVERAGES AND MAY CONTAIN WINE;**

15 **(2) IS 12% OR LESS ALCOHOL BY VOLUME; AND**

16 **(3) IS CONTAINED IN ORIGINAL PACKAGING CONSISTING OF A**
17 **METALLIC CONTAINER OR CAN THAT IS NOT MORE THAN 12 OUNCES.**

18 **[(k)] (L)** “Resident dealer” means a person who is required to obtain a resident
19 dealer’s permit under § 2–125 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article.

20 **[(l)] (M)** (1) “Retail dealer” means a person who buys an alcoholic beverage
21 for sale to a consumer.

22 (2) “Retail dealer” includes a county department of liquor control, a liquor
23 control board, or the Alcohol Beverage Services for Montgomery County that operates a
24 dispensary.

25 **[(m)] (N)** (1) “Wholesaler” means a person who buys or imports an alcoholic
26 beverage for sale to another person for resale.

1 (2) “Wholesaler” includes a county department of liquor control, a liquor
2 control board, or the Alcohol Beverage Services for Montgomery County that operates a
3 wholesale dispensary.

4 [(n)] (O) (1) “Wine” means a fermented alcoholic beverage.

5 (2) “Wine” includes:

6 (i) carbonated, flavored, imitation, sparkling, or still wine;

7 (ii) champagne;

8 (iii) cider;

9 (iv) fortified wine;

10 (v) perry;

11 (vi) sake; and

12 (vii) vermouth.

13 5–105.

14 (a) Except as provided in **PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND**
15 subsection (d) of this section, the alcoholic beverage tax rate for distilled spirits is:

16 (1) (I) \$1.50 for each gallon or 39.63 cents for each liter; and

17 [(2)] (II) if distilled spirits contain a percentage of alcohol greater than
18 100 proof, an additional tax, for each 1 proof over 100 proof, of 1.5 cents for each gallon or
19 0.3963 cents for each liter.

20 **(2) THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE TAX RATE FOR READY-TO-DRINK**
21 **COCKTAILS IS 40 CENTS FOR EACH GALLON OR 10.57 CENTS FOR EACH LITER.**

22 (b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the alcoholic beverage tax
23 rate for wine is 40 cents for each gallon or 10.57 cents for each liter.

24 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the alcoholic beverage tax
25 rate on beer and mead is 9 cents for each gallon or 2.3778 cents for each liter.

26 (d) The tax imposed under § 5–102(b) of this subtitle shall equal the amount that
27 the discriminating jurisdiction charges a Maryland licensee or permit holder.

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

1 1, 2024.