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**By: Delegate Conway**

Introduced and read first time: February 22, 1996

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 12, 1996

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2           **Wicomico County - Alcoholic Beverages**  
3           **(Class A Beer, Wine and Liquor Licenses)**

4 FOR the purpose of limiting the number of Class A beer, wine and liquor licenses in  
5       Wicomico County; altering the annual fee for those licenses; providing for an  
6       effective date; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages in Wicomico County.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
8       Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages  
9       Section 6-101(a)  
10       Annotated Code of Maryland  
11       (1994 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13       Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages  
14       Section 6-101(x)  
15       Annotated Code of Maryland  
16       (1994 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

19           **Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages**

20 6-101.

21       (a) (1) A Class A beer, wine and liquor license shall be issued by the license  
22 issuing authority of the county in which the place of business is located. The license  
23 authorizes the holder to keep for sale and to sell all alcoholic beverages at retail, in any

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1 quantity, at the place described in the license. The licensee shall deliver the alcoholic  
2 beverages in a sealed package or container and the package or container may not be  
3 opened nor its contents consumed on the premises where sold.

4 (2) The annual license fee shall be paid to the local collecting agent before  
5 the license is issued, for distribution as provided.

6 (3) A license may not be issued for any drugstore unless the applicant:

7 (i) Has been doing business at the location applied for, for at least 1  
8 year prior to the date of the application for the license;

9 (ii) Is the assignee of a business established for that length of time at  
10 the location applied for; or

11 (iii) Has been actually engaged in the retail drug business for a period  
12 of not less than 3 years.

13 (x) (1) This subsection applies only in Wicomico County.

14 (2) THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF LICENSES IS THREE.

15 (3) Any license issued under the provisions of this section shall be issued  
16 only to existing establishments that already have a Class B beer, wine and liquor  
17 (restaurant) license and have been continually operating as a restaurant in the County for  
18 3 months prior to the application for this license.

19 [(3)] (4) Any license issued under the provisions of this section shall apply  
20 only to the area described in the application and that area may not exceed 20 percent of  
21 the area normally used in the operation of the restaurant business. This area must be  
22 contiguous to and adjoin the restaurant establishment.

23 [(4)] (5) (I) 1. The annual license fee is \$2,200.

24 2. DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1997, THE ANNUAL LICENSE  
25 FEE IS \$3,300.

26 3. DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1998 AND THEREAFTER, THE  
27 ANNUAL LICENSE FEE IS \$4,400.

28 (II) This fee shall be paid in addition to the fee paid for the Class B  
29 (restaurant) license.

30 [(5)] (6) All alcoholic beverages other than beer and light wine shall be  
31 purchased from the Liquor Control Board for Wicomico County and the licensee shall be  
32 charged not more than 15 percent above the wholesale operating cost to the dispensary.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
34 June 1, 1996.

