

---

By: **Senator Astle**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

---

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Alcoholic Beverages - Hard Cider**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the definition of beer for certain purposes to include  
4 hard cider; specifying a certain alcohol content and certain other ingredient of  
5 hard cider; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to hard cider.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages  
8 Section 1-102(a)(1)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages  
13 Section 1-102(a)(3)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article - Tax - General  
18 Section 5-101(d)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

23 **Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages**

24 1-102.

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

1 (3) (I) "Beer" means any brewed alcoholic beverage [, and includes  
2 beer, ale, porter and stout].

3 (II) "BEER" INCLUDES:

4 1. ALE;

5 2. PORTER;

6 3. STOUT; AND

7 4. HARD CIDER, CONSISTING OF:

8 A. PRIMARILY APPLES OR APPLE CONCENTRATE AND  
9 WATER, WITH NO OTHER FRUIT PRODUCT; AND

10 B. AT LEAST ONE-HALF OF 1% AND LESS THAN 7% OF  
11 ALCOHOL BY VOLUME.

12 **Article - Tax - General**

13 5-101.

14 (d) (1) "Beer" means a brewed alcoholic beverage.

15 (2) "Beer" includes:

16 (i) ale;

17 (ii) porter; [and]

18 (iii) stout; AND

19 (IV) HARD CIDER, CONSISTING OF:

20 1. PRIMARILY APPLES OR APPLE CONCENTRATE AND  
21 WATER, WITH NO OTHER FRUIT PRODUCT; AND

22 2. AT LEAST ONE-HALF OF 1% AND LESS THAN 7% OF  
23 ALCOHOL BY VOLUME.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
25 October 1, 2000.