

Chapter 325

(House Bill 245)

AN ACT concerning

Howard County – Alcoholic Beverages – Beer, Wine and Liquor Tasting License

Ho. Co. 5–11

FOR the purpose of creating in Howard County a beer, wine and liquor tasting (BWLTL) license; specifying to whom the license may be issued; setting maximum limits on the amounts of alcoholic beverages that may be served under a BWLTL license; setting the annual license fee; authorizing the Howard County Board of License Commissioners to adopt rules or regulations to implement this Act; increasing the maximum alcohol content of wine that may be served under a beer and wine tasting license to conform with a certain definition of light wine; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Howard County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article 2B – Alcoholic Beverages
Section 8–408.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2005 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

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

Article 2B – Alcoholic Beverages

8–408.1.

(a) (1) In Howard County, the Board of License Commissioners may issue a beer and wine tasting (BWT) alcoholic beverages license.

(2) **NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, A BWT LICENSE MAY BE ISSUED TO A HOLDER OF:**

(I) A CLASS A BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR (BWL) LICENSE;
OR

(II) A CLASS A BEER AND WINE (BW) LICENSE.

(3) [The] A BWT license authorizes the on-premises consumption, FOR TASTING OR SAMPLING ONLY, of [beer or wine,]:

(I) BEER; OR

(II) WINE containing not more than [14%] **15.5%** of alcohol by volume[, for tasting or sampling only].

[(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the license may be issued to holders of a Class A beer, wine and liquor (BWL) license or a Class A beer and wine (BW) license.]

(4) [The licensee] A HOLDER OF A BWT LICENSE may not serve:

(i) Wine in a quantity of more than 1 ounce from each given brand and no more than 4 ounces from all brands to any one person in a single day; or

(ii) Beer in a quantity of more than 3 ounces from each given brand and no more than 8 ounces from all brands to any one person in a single day.

(5) The annual license fee for [the] A BWT license is \$100 in addition to the fee of any other alcoholic beverages license.

(B) (1) IN HOWARD COUNTY, THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS MAY ISSUE A BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR TASTING (BWL) ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSE.

(2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, A BWLT LICENSE MAY BE ISSUED TO A HOLDER OF A CLASS A BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR (BWL) LICENSE.

(3) A BWLT LICENSE AUTHORIZES THE ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION, FOR TASTING OR SAMPLING ONLY, OF:

(I) BEER;

(II) WINE CONTAINING NOT MORE THAN 15.5% OF ALCOHOL BY VOLUME; OR

(III) LIQUOR.

(4) A HOLDER OF A BWLT LICENSE MAY NOT SERVE:

(I) WINE IN A QUANTITY OF MORE THAN 1 OUNCE FROM EACH GIVEN BRAND AND NOT MORE THAN 4 OUNCES FROM ALL BRANDS TO ANY ONE PERSON IN A SINGLE DAY;

(II) BEER IN A QUANTITY OF MORE THAN 3 OUNCES FROM EACH GIVEN BRAND AND NOT MORE THAN 8 OUNCES FROM ALL BRANDS TO ANY ONE PERSON IN A SINGLE DAY; OR

(III) LIQUOR IN A QUANTITY OF MORE THAN 1/4 OUNCE FROM EACH GIVEN BRAND AND NOT MORE THAN 1 OUNCE FROM ALL BRANDS TO ANY ONE PERSON IN A SINGLE DAY.

(5) THE ANNUAL LICENSE FEE FOR A BWLT LICENSE IS \$100 IN ADDITION TO THE FEE FOR ANY OTHER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSE.

[(b)] (C) The Howard County Board of License Commissioners may adopt rules or regulations providing additional requirements to implement this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2011.

Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2011.