

Chapter 373

(Senate Bill 1079)

AN ACT concerning

Worcester County – Alcoholic Beverages Licenses – ~~Town of Berlin~~

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners to issue a certain alcoholic beverages license within the corporate limits of the Town of Berlin, or the corporate limits of the Town of Snow Hill, ~~or the corporate limits of the City of Pocomoke~~; making a clarifying change; and generally relating to the issuance of alcoholic beverages licenses in Worcester County.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article 2B – Alcoholic Beverages
Section 6–401(y)(1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2011 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article 2B – Alcoholic Beverages
Section 6–401(y)(2)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2011 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

Article 2B – Alcoholic Beverages

6–401.

- (y) (1) This subsection applies only in Worcester County.
- (2) (i) A Class D beer, wine and liquor license may be issued only within:
 - 1. The corporate limits of Ocean City;
 - 2. The boundary lines of the 10th taxing district;

3. The area bounded by U.S. Route 50 to the south, Turville Creek and Herring Creek to the east, St. Martin River to the north, and Maryland Route 589 to the west;

4. The area bounded by Maryland Route 589 to the north and east, U.S. Route 50 to the south, and U.S. Route 113 to the west; [and]

5. From the intersection of Maryland Route 589 and U.S. Route 50, an area bounded by a line that extends 1,500 feet south of U.S. Route 50, east to the boundary of the 10th taxing district, north along the 10th taxing district boundary to U.S. Route 50, and west to the intersection of Maryland Route 589 and U.S. Route 50; ~~OR~~

6. THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF BERLIN; OR

7. THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF SNOW HILL; OR

8. ~~THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF POCOMOKE.~~

(ii) The annual license fee for the six-day license set by the Worcester County Commissioners may not be less than \$3,000.

(iii) The annual license fee for the seven-day license set by the Worcester County Commissioners may not be less than \$3,500.

(iv) Seven-day license holders may sell beer, wine and liquor on-sale and off-sale.

(v) All license fees shall go to the general funds of the county. However, if the licensed premises are in a municipal corporation, 75 percent of the fees shall go to that municipal corporation.

(vi) 1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2 of this subparagraph, all licensees shall purchase all wines and liquors, except light wine and beer, from the Worcester County Department of Liquor Control. They shall be charged not more than 85 percent of the retail price or any special sale price or discount price, whichever is lower, set by the Department for wines and liquors. All licensees may purchase beer and light wine from licensed wholesalers.

2. Beginning on May 1, 2016, a licensee may elect to purchase wine and liquor from a licensed wholesaler under § 15-204(e) of this article.

(vii) The hours for sale are as provided in § 11–524 of this article.

(viii) With respect to the Ocean City Convention Hall, only the Convention Hall Commission and its successors may be issued an alcoholic beverages license. The Commission may permit its vendors to dispense alcoholic beverages pursuant to whatever license the Commission is granted. Further, the Commission may contract to receive some proportion of the revenue derived from the vendor's sale of alcoholic beverages. This license shall be subject to the following restrictions:

1. This monopoly may not impinge upon the provisions of § 7–101(u)(5) of this article;
2. Only on–sale transactions shall be permitted; and
3. Consumption of alcoholic beverages shall be restricted to the premises.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor, May 5, 2014.