

Chapter 605

(Senate Bill 1079)

AN ACT concerning

Washington County – Alcoholic Beverages – Hotel and Motel Licenses

FOR the purpose of altering certain conditions under which the Board of License Commissioners of Washington County may issue a certain alcoholic beverages license to the owner of a hotel or motel; requiring the hotel or motel to have certain lobby facilities; requiring the hotel or motel to have a certain ballroom, conference room, or banquet room instead of certain dining facilities; altering the authority of the license holder under the license; authorizing the Board to adopt certain regulations; and generally relating to an alcoholic beverages license for hotels or motels in Washington County.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Alcoholic Beverages

Section 31–102 and 31–1903

Annotated Code of Maryland

(As enacted by Chapter ____ (S.B. 724) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2016)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Alcoholic Beverages

Section 31–903

Annotated Code of Maryland

(As enacted by Chapter ____ (S.B. 724) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2016)

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

Article – Alcoholic Beverages

31–102.

This title applies only in Washington County.

31–903.

(a) There is a Class B beer, wine, and liquor [(on– and off–sale)] **(ON–SALE)** hotel and restaurant license.

(b) The Board may issue the license to the owner of a hotel **OR MOTEL** that:

(1) is in a building at least three stories tall that was originally constructed for hotel **OR MOTEL** purposes;

(2) has a capital investment of at least \$500,000; and

(3) contains:

(i) at least one passenger elevator;

(ii) at least 100 rooms to accommodate the public; [and]

(III) A LOBBY WITH A REGISTRATION AND MAIL DESK AND SEATING FACILITIES; AND

[(iii)] (IV) [a dining room with facilities for preparing and serving regular meals for at least 125 individuals at one seating] A BALLROOM, CONFERENCE ROOM, OR BANQUET ROOM.

(c) The license authorizes the license holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor at a hotel or restaurant at retail at the place described in the license, for [on- and off-premises] **ON-PREMISES** consumption:

(1) THROUGH ROOM SERVICE OR OTHERWISE TO REGISTERED GUESTS; OR

(2) BY THE GLASS, BOTTLE, OR CAN TO INDIVIDUALS ATTENDING AN EVENT IN A BALLROOM, CONFERENCE ROOM, OR BANQUET ROOM.

(d) [The] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD UNDER SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION, THE** license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor during the hours and days as set out for a Class B beer, wine, and liquor [(on- and off-sale)] **(ON-SALE)** license under [§ 31-2004(b)] **§ 31-2004(C)** of this title.

(e) (1) The annual license fee is \$1,000.

(2) The fee for a Sunday permit is \$250.

(F) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION, INCLUDING REGULATIONS THAT:

(1) PROVIDE FOR THE MANNER OF DISPENSING BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR UNDER THE LICENSE;

(2) PROVIDE FOR THE HOURS AND DAYS OF SALE; AND

(3) LIMIT THE QUANTITY OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES THAT MAY BE SOLD TO AN INDIVIDUAL AS A SINGLE SERVING OR DURING A 24-HOUR PERIOD.

31-1903.

(a) (1) The license holder or an individual designated by the license holder who is employed in a supervisory capacity shall:

(i) be certified by an approved alcohol awareness program; and

(ii) except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, be present on the licensed premises during the hours in which alcoholic beverages may be sold.

(2) The license holder or individual specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection may be absent from the licensed premises for a personal or business reason or an emergency if the absence lasts for not more than 2 hours.

(3) The Board shall require the license holder to keep a log book on the licensed premises that documents each temporary absence, the length of time of the absence, and the reason for the absence, in the form that the Board requires.

(b) A license holder who violates this section is subject to:

(1) for a first offense, a \$100 fine; and

(2) for each subsequent offense, a fine not exceeding \$500 or a suspension or revocation of the license or both.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2016.