

Chapter 321

(Senate Bill 340)

AN ACT concerning

Washington County – Alcoholic Beverages – Tasting Licenses

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Washington County to issue beer tasting licenses to holders of any class of beer, wine, and liquor license; providing that the beer tasting license authorizes the holder to allow the on-premises consumption of multiple varieties of beer for tasting from a single brand owner under certain circumstances; prohibiting a license holder from serving more than a certain amount of a single offering of beer to a single consumer; requiring that the license holder give notice in writing to the Board at least a certain number of days before a beer tasting event; specifying the number of bottles of beer that may be open at any one time at a beer tasting event; prohibiting the contents of a bottle from being mixed with that of any other bottle; requiring that a bottle be destroyed when empty; specifying the maximum number of days that a beer tasting license may be used; prohibiting a tasting from lasting longer than a certain number of hours; establishing certain annual fees for a beer tasting license; authorizing the Board to issue a wine tasting license to the holder of any class of beer, wine, and liquor license; authorizing the holder of a wine tasting license to allow a wholesaler or supplier to present certain wines at a tasting; providing for a maximum number of tasting events per year for a wine tasting license; providing that a tasting event may not last more than a certain amount of time; providing certain procedures for the consumption and disposal of wines used at a tasting event; establishing certain fees for certain types of wine tasting licenses; authorizing the Board to issue a liquor tasting license to the holder of any class of beer, wine, and liquor license; authorizing the holder of a liquor tasting license to allow a wholesaler or supplier to present certain liquors at a tasting; repealing a prohibition on a license holder holding more than one tasting event on the same day; repealing a certain application requirement; altering a certain limit to the amount of liquor an individual may be served at a tasting; providing that a tasting event may not last more than a certain amount of time; and generally relating to alcohol tasting licenses in Washington County.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Alcoholic Beverages

Section 31–102

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2016 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Alcoholic Beverages

Section 31–1307, 31–1308, and 31–1309

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2016 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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.

31–1307.

(a) There is a beer tasting (BT) license.

(b) The Board may issue the license to a holder of [a Class A or Class B beer and wine (BW) license or a Class A or Class B beer, wine, and liquor (BWL)] **ANY CLASS OF BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR** license.

(c) The license authorizes the holder to allow the **ON–PREMISES** consumption **OF MULTIPLE VARIETIES** of beer **FROM A SINGLE BRAND OWNER** for tasting if the consumer is not charged.

[(d) The Board shall regulate:

(1) the quantity of beer to be served to each individual;

(2) the number of bottles or other containers of beer from which this quantity is being served; and

(3) the size of the bottles or other containers.

(e) In addition to the BW license fee or the BWL license fee, the annual license fee is \$100.]

(D) A LICENSE HOLDER MAY SERVE NOT MORE THAN 2 OUNCES OF A SINGLE OFFERING TO A SINGLE CONSUMER.

(E) THE LICENSE HOLDER SHALL NOTIFY THE BOARD IN WRITING AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE A BEER TASTING EVENT.

(F) (1) A MAXIMUM OF FOUR BOTTLES OF BEER MAY BE OPEN AT ANY ONE TIME AT A BEER TASTING EVENT.

(2) AFTER A BOTTLE IS OPENED:

(I) THE CONTENTS OF THE BOTTLE MAY NOT BE MIXED WITH THAT OF ANY OTHER BOTTLE; AND

(II) THE BOTTLE SHALL BE DESTROYED WHEN EMPTY.

(G) (1) THE LICENSE MAY BE USED FOR A MAXIMUM OF:

(I) 12 DAYS IN A LICENSING YEAR FOR A 12-TASTING LICENSE;

AND

(II) 24 DAYS IN A LICENSING YEAR FOR A 24-TASTING LICENSE.

(2) A BEER TASTING MAY NOT LAST LONGER THAN 4 HOURS.

(H) THE ANNUAL LICENSE FEES ARE:

(1) \$100 FOR A 12-TASTING LICENSE; AND

(2) \$200 FOR A 24-TASTING LICENSE.

31-1308.

(a) There is a wine tasting (WTL) license.

(b) The Board may issue the license to a holder of [a Class A] **ANY CLASS OF** beer, wine, and liquor license.

(c) The license authorizes the holder to allow:

(1) the on-premises consumption of wine for tasting; AND

(2) A WHOLESALER OR SUPPLIER TO PRESENT VARIOUS WINES FROM A SINGLE BRAND OWNER.

(d) The license holder shall notify the Board in writing at least 10 days before a tasting event.

(e) A license holder may not serve more than 2 ounces of a single wine to a single customer.

(f) A license holder may not charge for the wine tasting.

(g) The license may be used [not more than] **FOR A MAXIMUM OF:**

- (1)** 12 days in a licensing year **FOR A 12–TASTING LICENSE; AND**
- (2)** **24 DAYS IN A LICENSING YEAR FOR A 24–TASTING LICENSE.**

[(h) In addition to the annual license fee of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license, the annual license fee is \$200.]

(H) **A SINGLE TASTING EVENT MAY NOT EXCEED 4 HOURS.**

(I) **(1)** **A MAXIMUM OF FOUR BOTTLES MAY BE OPEN AT ANY TIME AT A WINE TASTING EVENT.**

(2) **AFTER A BOTTLE OF WINE IS OPENED FOR A TASTING EVENT:**

(I) **THE CONTENTS OF THE BOTTLE MAY NOT BE MIXED WITH THAT OF ANY OTHER BOTTLE; AND**

(II) **THE BOTTLE SHALL BE DESTROYED WHEN EMPTY.**

(J) **THE ANNUAL LICENSE FEES ARE:**

(1) **\$200 FOR A 12–TASTING LICENSE; AND**

(2) **\$400 FOR A 24–TASTING LICENSE.**

31–1309.

(a) There is a liquor tasting license (LTL).

(b) The Board may issue the license to a holder of **[a Class A] ANY CLASS OF** beer, wine, and liquor license.

(c) **[(1)]** The license authorizes the holder to allow:

(1) the on–premises consumption of liquor for tasting; **AND**

(2) **A WHOLESALER OR SUPPLIER TO PRESENT VARIOUS LIQUORS FROM A SINGLE BRAND OWNER.**

[(2) A license holder may not hold more than one liquor, beer, or wine tasting event on the same day.]

(d) **[An applicant for the license shall submit an application on the form that the**

Board provides.

(e) The license holder shall notify the Board in writing at least 10 days before a tasting event.

[(f)] (E) [An individual may consume liquor covered by the license in a quantity of not more than:

(1) one-half ounce from each offering of liquor; and

(2) four offerings in 1 day] **A LICENSE HOLDER MAY NOT SERVE MORE THAN 1 OUNCE OF A SINGLE LIQUOR TO A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL.**

[(g)] (F) (1) A maximum of four bottles may be open at any one time at a liquor tasting event.

(2) After a bottle of liquor is opened for a tasting event:

(i) the contents of the bottle may not be mixed with that of any other bottle; and

(ii) the bottle shall be destroyed when empty.

[(h)] (G) A license holder may not charge for the liquor tasting.

[(i)] (H) The license may be used for a maximum of:

(1) 12 days in a licensing year for a 12-tasting license; and

(2) 24 days in a licensing year for a 24-tasting license.

(I) A SINGLE TASTING EVENT MAY NOT EXCEED 4 HOURS.

(j) The annual license fees are:

(1) \$300 for a 12-tasting license; and

(2) \$500 for a 24-tasting license.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2018.