

# HOUSE BILL 1435

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By: **Delegates Arentz, Jacobs, Mautz, and McComas**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2020

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Alcoholic Beverages – Retail License Holders – Alcohol Awareness Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that a certain individual who has completed training in an  
4 approved alcohol awareness program be present on a licensed premises at certain  
5 times; authorizing a trained individual to be absent from the licensed premises for  
6 up to a certain time for certain reasons; requiring the local licensing board to require  
7 the license holder to keep a log book documenting certain details of the absence in a  
8 certain form; altering certain penalties for violations related to alcohol awareness  
9 program training; requiring the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission to report to the  
10 General Assembly on certain matters on or before a certain date; and generally  
11 relating to alcohol awareness programs.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Alcoholic Beverages  
14 Section 3–504  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2016 Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages**

20 3–504.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



- 1 (a) In this section, “alcohol awareness program” means a program that:
- 2 (1) includes instruction on how alcohol affects an individual’s behavior and  
3 body;
- 4 (2) provides education on the dangers of drinking and driving; and
- 5 (3) defines effective methods to:
- 6 (i) determine whether a customer is under the legal drinking age;
- 7 (ii) serve customers to minimize the chance of intoxication; and
- 8 (iii) stop service before a customer becomes intoxicated.
- 9 (b) (1) This section applies to:
- 10 (i) a licensed premises that sells alcoholic beverages to a customer  
11 from a bar or service bar on the premises; and
- 12 (ii) a premises licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises  
13 consumption.
- 14 (2) This section does not apply to:
- 15 (i) a temporary license;
- 16 (ii) a Class E (on-sale) water vessel license;
- 17 (iii) a Class F (on-sale) railroad license; or
- 18 (iv) a Class G (on-sale) airplane license.
- 19 (c) The Comptroller:
- 20 (1) shall approve, certify, and issue an alcohol awareness program permit  
21 to each alcohol awareness program that complies with this section; and
- 22 (2) may require recertification of the approved alcohol awareness program  
23 to ensure compliance with changes in the program.
- 24 (d) Before an individual may teach an alcohol awareness program, the individual  
25 shall obtain an alcohol awareness instructor’s permit.
- 26 (e) A holder of any retail alcoholic beverages license or an employee designated  
27 by the holder shall complete training in an approved alcohol awareness program.

1 (f) (1) (i) For each completion of a certified alcohol awareness program, the  
2 alcohol awareness program provider shall issue a certificate of completion that is valid for  
3 4 years from the date of issuance.

4 (ii) The holder or employee shall complete retraining in an approved  
5 alcohol awareness program for each successive 4-year period.

6 (iii) On request, a valid certificate shall be presented to the proper  
7 authority.

8 (2) Within 5 days after a license holder, an owner of an unlicensed  
9 establishment, or an employee of a license holder or owner of an unlicensed establishment  
10 is sent a certificate of completion, the alcohol awareness program provider shall inform the  
11 appropriate local licensing board of:

12 (i) the individual's name, address, and certification date; and

13 (ii) the name and address of the licensed establishment or  
14 unlicensed establishment.

15 (g) **(1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS**  
16 **SUBSECTION, A LICENSE HOLDER, OR AN INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATED BY THE LICENSE**  
17 **HOLDER, WHO HAS COMPLETED TRAINING IN AN APPROVED ALCOHOL AWARENESS**  
18 **PROGRAM SHALL BE PRESENT ON THE LICENSED PREMISES DURING THE HOURS**  
19 **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE SOLD OR SERVED.**

20 **(2) THE INDIVIDUAL CERTIFIED BY AN APPROVED ALCOHOL**  
21 **AWARENESS PROGRAM MAY BE ABSENT FROM THE LICENSED PREMISES FOR A**  
22 **PERSONAL OR BUSINESS REASON OR AN EMERGENCY IF THE ABSENCE LASTS FOR**  
23 **NOT MORE THAN 2 HOURS.**

24 **(3) A LOCAL LICENSING BOARD SHALL REQUIRE THE LICENSE**  
25 **HOLDER TO KEEP A LOG BOOK ON THE LICENSED PREMISES THAT, IN THE FORM**  
26 **REQUIRED BY THE LOCAL LICENSING BOARD, DOCUMENTS:**

27 **(I) EACH TEMPORARY ABSENCE;**

28 **(II) THE LENGTH OF TIME OF EACH ABSENCE; AND**

29 **(III) THE REASON FOR EACH ABSENCE.**

30 **(H)** The Comptroller may decertify the alcohol awareness program of an alcohol  
31 awareness program provider who violates subsection (c), (d), or (f) of this section.

32 **[(h)] (I)** (1) Each local licensing board shall enforce this section.

1 (2) A license holder who violates subsection (e) **OR (G)** of this section is  
2 subject to:

3 (i) for the first offense, a ~~[\$100]~~ **\$250** fine; and

4 (ii) for each subsequent offense, ~~[a fine not to exceed \$500 or]~~ a  
5 suspension or revocation of the license ~~[or both]~~.

6 **[(i)] (J)** (1) This section does not create or enlarge a civil cause of action or  
7 criminal proceeding against a license holder.

8 (2) Evidence of a violation of this section:

9 (i) may only be used as evidence before the local licensing board in  
10 an action brought before the local licensing board for a violation of this section; and

11 (ii) may not be introduced in a civil or criminal proceeding.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 31,  
13 2021, the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission shall report to the General Assembly, in  
14 accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, recommendations on the  
15 expansion of the requirement to obtain alcohol awareness training to all bartenders,  
16 alcoholic beverages servers, and related others who interact with consumers on licensed  
17 premises.

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
19 1, 2020.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.