

Chapter 818

(Senate Bill 571)

AN ACT concerning

**Anne Arundel County – Class A (Off-Sale) and Class D (Off-Sale) Licenses
– Population Ratio Quota**

FOR the purpose of establishing a population ratio quota for certain Class A (off-sale) and Class D (off-sale) licenses in Anne Arundel County; specifying a certain official map to be used to identify certain tax assessment districts for purposes of the population ratio quota; prohibiting the Board of License Commissioners for Anne Arundel County from approving the transfer of certain alcoholic beverages licenses under certain circumstances; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Anne Arundel County.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 11–102
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 11–1602
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

11–102.

This title applies only in Anne Arundel County.

11–1602.

(a) In this section, “assessment district” means a tax assessment district:

(1) established by the county [through local law]; AND

(2) SHOWN ON THE OFFICIAL MAP ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL TITLED “TAX ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS, 2005”.

(b) [The] **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE** Board may issue a Class A (off-sale), Class B (off-sale), or Class D (off-sale) license based on its determination of whether the license is necessary to accommodate the public.

(c) [In making its determination,] **IF THE APPLICATION IS FOR A CLASS A (OFF-SALE) OR CLASS D (OFF-SALE) LICENSE,** the Board [may consider whether the establishment for which the license would be issued is in] **MAY NOT ISSUE THE LICENSE IF:**

(1) **THE ESTABLISHMENT FOR WHICH THE LICENSE WOULD BE ISSUED IS LOCATED IN** an assessment district in which the ratio of off-sale licenses per individual [is more than] **EXCEEDS one [per] FOR EVERY ~~4,000~~ 3,500** individuals; or

(2) [an assessment district in which the ratio of off-sale licenses per individual is less than one per 4,000 individuals] **THE ISSUANCE OF THE LICENSE WOULD CAUSE THE RATIO OF OFF-SALE LICENSES PER INDIVIDUAL IN AN ASSESSMENT DISTRICT TO EXCEED ONE FOR EVERY ~~4,000~~ 3,500 INDIVIDUALS.**

(D) SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY:

(1) **TO THE TRANSFER OR RENEWAL OF A LICENSE THAT WAS ISSUED ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2025; ~~OR~~**

(2) **IN THE 6TH TAX ASSESSMENT DISTRICT; OR**

(3) **TO AN APPLICATION FOR AN ON-SITE CONSUMPTION PERMIT UNDER § 2-207 OF THIS ARTICLE BY AN APPLICANT THAT HOLDS A CLASS 5 BREWERY LICENSE.**

(E) THE POPULATION OF EACH ASSESSMENT DISTRICT IS TO BE DETERMINED BY:

(1) **THE LATEST FEDERAL CENSUS; OR**

(2) **ESTIMATES PREPARED BY THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING.**

(F) THE BOARD MAY NOT APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF A CLASS A (OFF-SALE) LICENSE OR CLASS D (OFF-SALE) LICENSE:

(1) **TO A LOCATION OUTSIDE THE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT IN WHICH THE LICENSE WAS LOCATED ON JULY 1, 2025; OR**

(2) IF THE LICENSE WAS NOT IN EXISTENCE AS OF JULY 1, 2025, TO A LOCATION OUTSIDE THE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT IN WHICH THE LICENSE WAS ORIGINALLY ISSUED.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and 6 months and, at the end of December 31, 2028, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.