

Chapter 824

(House Bill 1026)

AN ACT concerning

Frederick County – Alcoholic Beverages – Tasting Permits

FOR the purpose of altering in Frederick County the beer and wine consumption permit to be the beer and wine tasting permit and the beer, wine, and liquor consumption permit to be the beer, wine, and liquor tasting permit; altering the amounts of certain alcoholic beverages an individual may taste under the permits; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages in Frederick County.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 20–102
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 20–1102.1 and 20–1102.2
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

20–102.

This title applies only in Frederick County.

20–1102.1.

- (a) There is a beer and wine [consumption (BWC)] **TASTING (BWT)** permit.
- (b) The Board may issue the permit to the holder of a Class A license.
- (c) The permit authorizes the holder to allow for on–premises [consumption] **TASTING** of beer and wine.
- (d) (1) An applicant for the permit shall submit to the Board an application on a form that the Board provides.

(2) The Board may issue the permit without a public hearing.

(3) If an initial permit application is denied, the applicant may request a public hearing before the Board.

(4) Renewal of the permit may be made when the license holder's Class A license is renewed.

(e) An individual may [consume] **TASTE** beer or wine covered by the permit in a quantity not exceeding:

[(1) a single serving consisting of:

(i)] **(1)** 12 total ounces of beer; or

[(ii)] **(2)** 6 total ounces of wine[; or

(2) three individual sample servings of beer or wine in any combination, each consisting of not more than:

(i) 2 ounces of beer; or

(ii) 1 ounce of wine].

(F) THE BOARD SHALL REGULATE:

(1) THE QUANTITY OF BEER AND WINE SERVED TO AN INDIVIDUAL;
AND

(2) THE NUMBER OF BOTTLES OR OTHER CONTAINERS FROM WHICH THE QUANTITY IS SERVED.

[(f)] **(G)** (1) The permit authorizes the [consumption] **TASTING** of beer and wine only on the licensed premises of the holder.

(2) The permit holder may not allow an open container to be taken from the licensed premises.

(3) The permit holder may not serve open alcoholic beverages from a drive-through window.

[(g)] **(H)** The annual permit fee is \$200.

(a) There is a beer, wine, and liquor [consumption (BWLC)] **TASTING (BWLTT)** permit.

(b) The Board may issue the permit to the holder of a Class A license.

(c) The permit authorizes the holder to allow for on-premises [consumption] **TASTING** of beer, wine, and liquor.

(d) (1) An applicant for the permit shall submit to the Board an application on a form that the Board provides.

(2) The Board may issue the permit without a public hearing.

(3) If an initial permit application is denied, the applicant may request a public hearing before the Board.

(4) Renewal of the permit may be made when the license holder's Class A license is renewed.

(e) An individual may [consume] **TASTE** beer, wine, or liquor covered by the permit in a quantity not exceeding:

[(1) a single serving consisting of:

(i) **(1)** 12 total ounces of beer;

[(ii) **(2)** 6 total ounces of wine; or

[(iii) **(3)** 1.5 total ounces of liquor, which may be mixed with other nonalcoholic beverages]; or

(2) three individual sample servings of beer, wine, or liquor in any combination, each consisting of not more than:

(i) 2 ounces of beer;

(ii) 1 ounce of wine; or

(iii) 0.5 ounce of liquor, which may be mixed with other nonalcoholic beverages].

(F) THE BOARD SHALL REGULATE:

(1) THE QUANTITY OF BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR THAT MAY BE SERVED TO AN INDIVIDUAL; AND

(2) THE NUMBER OF BOTTLES OR OTHER CONTAINERS FROM WHICH THE QUANTITY IS SERVED.

[(f)] (G) (1) The permit authorizes the **[consumption]** **TASTING** of beer, wine, and liquor only on the licensed premises of the holder.

(2) The permit holder may not allow an open container to be taken from the licensed premises.

(3) The permit holder may not serve open alcoholic beverages from a drive-through window.

[(g)] (H) The annual permit fee is \$400.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.