

HOUSE BILL 987

A2

5lr2923
CF 5lr3540

By: **Delegates Mangione, Forbes, Nawrocki, and Szeliga**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2025

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore County – Alcoholic Beverages – Distance From Place of Worship**
3 **Restriction – Exception**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Baltimore County
5 to issue a beer, wine, and liquor license to an establishment that has a certain zoning
6 classification and is within a certain distance of a place of worship under certain
7 circumstances; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Baltimore
8 County.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
11 Section 13–102
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2024 Replacement Volume)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
16 Section 13–1601
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2024 Replacement Volume)

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

21 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis**

22 13–102.

23 This title applies only in Baltimore County.

24 13–1601.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) (1) Except as provided in [subsection] **SUBSECTIONS (b) AND (c)** of this
2 section, the Board may not issue a license for an establishment that is within 300 feet of a
3 place of worship or school.

4 (2) The distance from the establishment to the place of worship or school is
5 to be measured from the nearest point of the building of the establishment to the nearest
6 point of the building of the place of worship or school.

7 (b) The prohibition against issuing a license in subsection (a) of this section does
8 not apply to:

9 (1) the renewal or transfer of a license of an establishment if, after issuance
10 of the license, a place of worship or school was built within 300 feet of the establishment;

11 (2) the issuance of a temporary license;

12 (3) a transfer that moves the licensed premises within the same building;

13 (4) a transfer of ownership of the licensed premises;

14 (5) the renewal of a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license or a
15 7-day Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license, if the licensed
16 premises has a seating capacity of more than 50 individuals and is within a town center; or

17 (6) the transfer, conversion, and issuance of a license under § 13-1710 of
18 this title.

19 **(c) THE PROHIBITION AGAINST ISSUING A LICENSE IN SUBSECTION (A) OF**
20 **THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE ISSUANCE OF A BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR**
21 **LICENSE FOR ON- OR OFF-PREMISES CONSUMPTION FOR AN ESTABLISHMENT THAT**
22 **IS WITHIN 300 FEET OF A PLACE OF WORSHIP IF:**

23 **(1) THE ESTABLISHMENT IS LOCATED IN THE TOWSON AREA, AS**
24 **DETERMINED BY THE BOARD;**

25 **(2) THE ESTABLISHMENT IS LOCATED IN AN OFFICE BUILDING THAT**
26 **IS AT LEAST 100,000 SQUARE FEET IN SIZE;**

27 **(3) THE ESTABLISHMENT HAS A ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF**
28 **BM-D.T. BY THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT;**

29 **(4) THE PLACE OF WORSHIP CONSENTS IN WRITING TO THE ISSUANCE**
30 **OF THE LICENSE; AND**

1 **(5) (I) THE LICENSE IS TO APPLY TO A RESTAURANT, A MARKET, OR**
2 **ANOTHER SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENT; AND**

3 **(II) THE LICENSE IS NOT A CLASS A LICENSE.**

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
5 1, 2025.