

# HOUSE BILL 1259

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By: **Delegate Howard**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Anne Arundel County – Alcoholic Beverages – License and Permit Distance**  
3 **Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing, rather than prohibiting, the Board of Liquor  
5 Commissioners for Anne Arundel County to issue a certain dancing permit to the  
6 holder of a Class H beer and wine (on–sale) license or Class H beer, wine, and liquor  
7 (on–sale) license for a licensed premises located within a certain distance of a certain  
8 school; and authorizing, rather than prohibiting, the Board from issuing a new Class  
9 B beer and wine (on–sale) license or Class B beer, wine, and liquor (on–sale) license  
10 if the establishment is located within a certain distance of a certain school; and  
11 generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Anne Arundel County.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis  
14 Section 11–102  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2024 Replacement Volume)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis  
19 Section 11–1102(d) and 11–1603  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2024 Replacement Volume)

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

24 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis**

25 11–102.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 This title applies only in Anne Arundel County.

2 11-1102.

3 (d) (1) There is a dancing permit.

4 (2) The Board may issue the permit to a holder of:

5 (i) a Class B license;

6 (ii) except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, a Class  
7 BLX license;

8 (iii) a Class C license;

9 (iv) a Class D license; or

10 (v) except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, a Class H  
11 license.

12 (3) The permit authorizes the holder to provide music, dancing, and other  
13 legal forms of entertainment.

14 (4) (I) The Board may not issue the permit to a holder of a Class BLX  
15 license or a Class H license if the premises for which the Class BLX license or Class H  
16 license is issued is within 1,000 feet in a straight line from entry to entry from a place of  
17 worship or school.

18 (II) **NOTWITHSTANDING SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS**  
19 **PARAGRAPH, THE BOARD MAY ISSUE THE PERMIT TO THE HOLDER OF A CLASS H**  
20 **LICENSE IF THE LICENSED PREMISES IS LOCATED WITHIN 1,000 FEET IN A STRAIGHT**  
21 **LINE FROM ENTRY TO ENTRY FROM A SCHOOL LOCATED AT THE ANNAPOLIS MALL.**

22 (5) The annual permit fees are:

23 (i) \$200 for a holder of a beer and wine license;

24 (ii) \$400 for a holder of a beer, wine, and liquor license; and

25 (iii) no charge for a holder of a Class C license.

26 11-1603.

27 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Board may not issue a  
28 new license for an establishment whose entry is within 1,000 feet in a straight line from  
29 the entry of a place of worship or school.

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

3 (1) the transfer of a license from the current license holder to a new license  
4 holder, unless the transfer would allow the sale of alcoholic beverages by another  
5 establishment within the 1,000-foot restriction;

6 (2) a nonprofit club or nonprofit organization;

7 (3) a restaurant that held a license at the time the restaurant was  
8 destroyed by fire, flood, windstorm, or other act of God, if a new place of worship or school  
9 has not been constructed within the 1,000-foot restriction;

10 (4) the issuance of a Class H beer and wine (on-sale) license or beer, wine,  
11 and liquor (on-sale) license;

12 (5) the issuance of a motel-restaurant complex or hotel-restaurant  
13 complex beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license;

14 (6) the issuance of a Class BLX (deluxe restaurant) (on-sale) beer, wine,  
15 and liquor license; [or]

16 (7) the issuance of a gift basket permit; **OR**

17 **(8) THE ISSUANCE OF A CLASS B BEER AND WINE (ON-SALE) LICENSE**  
18 **OR CLASS B BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR (ON-SALE) LICENSE FOR AN ESTABLISHMENT**  
19 **LOCATED WITHIN 1,000 FEET OF A SCHOOL LOCATED AT THE ANNAPOLIS MALL.**

20 (c) For an establishment that is within 1,000 feet of the grounds of a place of  
21 worship or school, the Board:

22 (1) may renew a license;

23 (2) may extend the area of the licensed premises; but

24 (3) may not change the operational classification of an existing license,  
25 unless the change is from a Class B, Class C, or Class D license to a Class H license.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
27 1, 2025.