

# SENATE BILL 800

A2

5lr2666  
CF HB 567

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By: **Dorchester County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 16, 2025

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Dorchester County – Alcoholic Beverages – Arts Beer and Wine License**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing in Dorchester County an arts beer and wine license that  
4 authorizes the holder to sell or serve beer and wine for on–premises consumption;  
5 authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Dorchester County to issue the  
6 license to a nonprofit or for–profit retail business that engages in the display and  
7 sale of original artwork in a certain arts and entertainment district; authorizing the  
8 Board to issue the license to an establishment that is within a certain distance of a  
9 place of worship or school with the written consent of the place of worship or school;  
10 and generally relating to alcoholic beverages in Dorchester County.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
12 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis  
13 Section 19–102  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2024 Replacement Volume)

16 BY adding to  
17 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis  
18 Section 19–1001  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2024 Replacement Volume)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
22 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

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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        Section 19–1601  
2        Annotated Code of Maryland  
3        (2024 Replacement Volume)

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

6                                **Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis**

7        19–102.

8                This title applies only in Dorchester County.

9        **19–1001.**

10            **(A)    THERE IS AN ARTS BEER AND WINE LICENSE.**

11            **(B)    (1)    THE BOARD MAY ISSUE THE LICENSE TO A NONPROFIT OR**  
12 **FOR–PROFIT RETAIL BUSINESS, INCLUDING AN ART CENTER, AN ART GALLERY, A**  
13 **MUSEUM, OR A SIMILAR BUSINESS THAT IS PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO ART THAT**  
14 **EXPRESSES MATTERS OF SERIOUS LITERARY, ARTISTIC, SCIENTIFIC, OR POLITICAL**  
15 **VALUE, THAT:**

16                                **(I)    ENGAGES IN THE DISPLAY AND SALE OF ORIGINAL**  
17 **ARTWORK; AND**

18                                **(II)   IS LOCATED IN AN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT**  
19 **APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.**

20            **(2)    THE BOARD MAY NOT ISSUE THE LICENSE TO A BUSINESS THAT**  
21 **DISPLAYS AND SELLS COMMERCIALY PREPARED OR MASS–PRODUCED ARTISTIC**  
22 **PRODUCTS.**

23            **(3)    THE LICENSE HOLDER MAY SELL OR SERVE BEER AND WINE:**

24                                **(I)    AT RETAIL FOR ON–PREMISES CONSUMPTION WHEN**  
25 **SNACKS ARE SERVED; AND**

26                                **(II)   ON MONDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, DURING NORMAL**  
27 **BUSINESS HOURS BUT NOT EARLIER THAN 10 A.M. AND NOT LATER THAN 10 P.M.**

28            **(4)    THE LICENSE MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE LOCATION**  
29 **FOR WHICH THE LICENSE WAS ORIGINALLY ISSUED TO ANOTHER LOCATION.**

30            **(C)    THE ANNUAL LICENSE FEE IS \$250.**

1 (D) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

2 19-1601.

3 (a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Board may not  
4 issue a new license for an establishment that is within 300 feet in a direct line of a place of  
5 worship or a public or nonpublic kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school.

6 (2) The distance from the establishment to the place of worship or the  
7 public or nonpublic kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school is to be measured from  
8 the establishment in a direct line to the nearest point of the main building of the place of  
9 worship or school.

10 (b) The prohibition against issuing a license in subsection (a) of this section does  
11 not apply to the issuance of:

12 (1) a license for a premises that was licensed on October 1, 1996;

13 (2) a Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license for a premises in  
14 Cambridge, Secretary, or Hurlock; [or]

15 (3) a temporary license; OR

16 (4) AN ARTS BEER AND WINE LICENSE IF THE BOARD RECEIVES  
17 WRITTEN CONSENT TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE LICENSE FROM EACH PLACE OF  
18 WORSHIP OR SCHOOL LOCATED WITHIN 300 FEET IN A DIRECT LINE OF THE  
19 ESTABLISHMENT FOR WHICH THE LICENSE IS SOUGHT.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
21 1, 2025.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.