

SENATE BILL 802

A2

5lr2673
CF HB 564

By: **Dorchester County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 16, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Dorchester County – Alcoholic Beverages – Venue Beer, Wine, and Liquor**
3 **License**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing in Dorchester County a venue beer, wine, and liquor
5 license that authorizes the holder to sell or serve beer, wine, and liquor for
6 on–premises consumption during an event where food is served; authorizing the
7 Board of License Commissioners for Dorchester County to issue the license to a
8 nonprofit or for–profit retail business that hosts private or public events at a venue
9 that meets certain criteria; authorizing the Board to issue the license to an
10 establishment that is within a certain distance of a place of worship or school with
11 the written consent of the place of worship or school; and generally relating to
12 alcoholic beverages licenses in Dorchester County.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
15 Section 19–102
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2024 Replacement Volume)

18 BY adding to
19 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
20 Section 19–1001
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2024 Replacement Volume)

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 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
2 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
3 Section 19–1601
4 Annotated Code of Maryland
5 (2024 Replacement Volume)

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

8 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis**

9 19–102.

10 This title applies only in Dorchester County.

11 **19–1001.**

12 **(A) THERE IS A VENUE BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE.**

13 **(B) THE BOARD MAY ISSUE THE LICENSE TO A NONPROFIT OR FOR–PROFIT**
14 **RETAIL BUSINESS THAT HOSTS WEDDINGS, BANQUETS, PARTIES, MEETINGS, AND**
15 **SIMILAR EVENTS, WHETHER PRIVATE OR OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AT A VENUE THAT:**

16 **(1) IS AT LEAST 2,000 SQUARE FEET IN SIZE;**

17 **(2) CAN ACCOMMODATE AT LEAST 100 INDIVIDUALS FOR A SINGLE**
18 **EVENT, WHETHER INSIDE THE VENUE OR OUTSIDE ON THE VENUE’S PREMISES; AND**

19 **(3) HAS ADEQUATE BATHROOM FACILITIES.**

20 **(C) (1) THE LICENSE AUTHORIZES THE LICENSE HOLDER TO SELL OR**
21 **SERVE BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR AT RETAIL, BY THE DRINK OR BY THE BOTTLE, FOR**
22 **ON–PREMISES CONSUMPTION:**

23 **(I) DURING AN EVENT HOSTED BY THE LICENSE HOLDER AT**
24 **THE LICENSE HOLDER’S VENUE; AND**

25 **(II) ONLY IF FOOD IS ALSO PROVIDED DURING THE EVENT.**

26 **(2) A LICENSE HOLDER MAY NOT ALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL TO CARRY**
27 **BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR ONTO OR OFF THE LICENSED PREMISES.**

28 **(D) THE LICENSE MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER LOCATION.**

1 **(E) THE LICENSE HOLDER MAY SELL BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR DURING THE**
2 **HOURS AND DAYS AS SET OUT FOR A CLASS B BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE**
3 **UNDER § 19-2005 OF THIS TITLE.**

4 **(F) THE ANNUAL FEE FOR THE LICENSE IS \$1,500.**

5 **(G) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.**

6 19-1601.

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

10 **(2) The distance from the establishment to the place of worship or the**
11 **public or nonpublic kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school is to be measured from**
12 **the establishment in a direct line to the nearest point of the main building of the place of**
13 **worship or school.**

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

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

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

19 **(3) a temporary license; OR**

20 **(4) A VENUE BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE IF THE BOARD**
21 **RECEIVES WRITTEN CONSENT TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE LICENSE FROM EACH PLACE**
22 **OF WORSHIP OR SCHOOL LOCATED WITHIN 300 FEET IN A DIRECT LINE OF THE**
23 **ESTABLISHMENT FOR WHICH THE LICENSE IS SOUGHT.**

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
25 1, 2025.