

SENATE BILL 972

A2

5lr3244

By: **Senator Lam**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 25, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Anne Arundel County – Board of License Commissioners – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the membership of the Board of License Commissioners for
4 Anne Arundel County; altering the eligibility requirements for Board membership;
5 requiring the Board to adopt and publish a certain ethics policy; requiring the Board
6 to include an option to provide certain information on an application for the issuance
7 of a license or a license renewal; prohibiting the Board from using certain
8 information as a factor in determining whether to issue or renew a license; requiring
9 the Board to submit a certain report regarding enforcement actions to the General
10 Assembly each year; altering the penalties that the Board may impose for certain
11 violations; and generally relating to the Board of License Commissioners for Anne
12 Arundel County.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
15 Section 11–102
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2024 Replacement Volume)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
20 Section 11–202(a) and (b) and 11–2802
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 adding to
 2 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
 3 Section 11–210, 11–1409, and 11–2607
 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 11–102.

10 This title applies only in Anne Arundel County.

11 11–202.

12 (a) (1) The Governor shall appoint [~~three~~] **FIVE** members to the Board.

13 (2) The appointments shall be made[:

14 (i) if the Senate is in session,] with the advice and consent of the
 15 Senate[; or

16 (ii) if the Senate is not in session, by the Governor alone].

17 (b) (1) Each member of the Board shall be:

18 (i) a resident and voter of the county; ~~and~~

19 (ii) SELECTED FROM A LIST OF INDIVIDUALS RECOMMENDED
 20 BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY HOUSE OR SENATE
 21 DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND

22 (III) an individual of high character and integrity and of recognized
 23 business capacity.

24 (2) No more than ~~two~~ THREE members of the Board may belong to the
 25 same political party.

26 **(3) NO MORE THAN TWO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD MAY BE**
 27 **RESIDENTS OF THE SAME STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT.**

28 **(4) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT BE APPOINTED TO THE BOARD IF THE**
 29 **INDIVIDUAL SERVED AS THE CHIEF INSPECTOR WITHIN ~~5 YEARS~~ 1 YEAR OF THE**
 30 **DATE THAT THE VACANCY IS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED.**

1 11-210.

2 THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT AND PUBLISH A WRITTEN POLICY RELATED TO
3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND THE RECUSAL OF BOARD MEMBERS FROM BOARD
4 MATTERS.

5 11-1409.

6 (A) THE BOARD SHALL:

7 (1) INCLUDE ON ALL APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A
8 LICENSE OR A LICENSE RENEWAL AN OPTION FOR THE APPLICANT TO PROVIDE THE
9 APPLICANT'S RACE AND ETHNICITY INFORMATION; ~~AND~~

10 (2) ~~ENCOURAGE AN APPLICANT TO PROVIDE RACE AND ETHNICITY~~
11 ~~INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION.~~

12 (B) THE BOARD MAY NOT USE ANY RACE OR ETHNICITY INFORMATION
13 INCLUDED ON AN APPLICATION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A LICENSE OR LICENSE
14 RENEWAL AS A FACTOR IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO ISSUE OR RENEW THE
15 LICENSE.

16 11-2607.

17 ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15 EACH YEAR, THE BOARD SHALL REPORT TO THE
18 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT
19 ARTICLE, ON THE RACIAL BREAKDOWN OF THE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN BY
20 THE BOARD IN THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR.

21 11-2802.

22 (a) [The Board may impose a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or suspend a license or
23 both for] FOR a violation that is cause for license suspension under the alcoholic beverage
24 laws affecting the county, THE BOARD MAY:

25 (1) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, IMPOSE A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000;

26 (2) FOR A SECOND OFFENSE IN THE SAME 24-MONTH PERIOD, IMPOSE
27 A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$2,000 OR SUSPEND THE LICENSE OR BOTH; AND

28 (3) FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE IN THE SAME 24-MONTH
29 PERIOD, IMPOSE A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$2,500 OR SUSPEND THE LICENSE OR
30 BOTH.

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1 (b) A fine or suspension under subsection (a) of this section is in addition to any
2 term or condition that the Board may impose as a result of the violation.

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.