

Chapter 826

(Senate Bill 284)

AN ACT concerning

Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – Hours of Operation Violations – Civil Penalties

FOR the purpose of establishing civil penalties for the offense by a holder of an alcoholic beverages license in Baltimore City of operating the licensed premises outside specified hours of operation without obtaining a certain exemption; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages in Baltimore City.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 12–102 and 12–2007
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 12–2802(f)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

12–102.

This title applies only in Baltimore City.

12–2007.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a licensed premises shall end all operations, including the serving of alcoholic beverages and food and providing entertainment, at the closing hour for that class of licensed premises specified in this title.

(b) (1) The Board may grant an exemption for remaining open after hours to:

(i) a holder of a Class B restaurant license, only for serving food to patrons seated for dining;

(ii) a pharmacy that fills prescriptions; or

(iii) a holder of a Class D beer, wine, and liquor license that operates a restaurant, if:

1. it is used only for serving food to patrons seated in a dining room that is not adjacent to a bar; and

2. the restaurant is located in the 46th legislative district in the Legislative Districting Plan of 2022.

(2) A pharmacy that receives an exemption under paragraph (1) of this subsection may also sell products other than alcohol after normal closing hours.

(3) A hotel that holds a Class B license and that serves food to seated customers or for private functions or guest rooms may continue to provide food service.

(4) The Board may waive the requirement in paragraph (1)(iii)1 of this subsection that a dining room not be adjacent to a bar.

12-2802.

(F) FOR THE OFFENSE BY A HOLDER OF AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSE OF OPERATING THE LICENSED PREMISES OUTSIDE THE HOURS OF OPERATION SPECIFIED IN THIS TITLE WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING AN EXEMPTION UNDER § 12-2007 OF THIS TITLE, THE BOARD SHALL:

(1) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, IMPOSE A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN \$1,000 OR SUSPEND THE LICENSE OR BOTH; AND

(2) FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, IMPOSE A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN \$2,000 AND NOT MORE THAN \$20,000 OR SUSPEND THE LICENSE OR BOTH.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.