

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 304
Finance

(Senator McCray)

Economic Matters

**Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - 45th Alcoholic Beverages District -
Licenses**

This bill authorizes the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners to issue a Class C beer, wine, and liquor license in the 400 block of East Oliver Street in the 45th alcoholic beverages district, as specified. The bill also establishes a geographic boundary in the 45th alcoholic beverages district within which a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license holder or a Class B-D-7 beer, wine, and liquor license holder may only sell alcoholic beverages during specified hours. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Baltimore City finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: This bill authorizes the board to issue a Class C beer, wine, and liquor license in the 400 block of East Oliver Street in the 45th alcoholic beverages district only if (1) the applicant does not convert the license to a different license class; (2) alcoholic beverages are served outdoors only to patrons seated at tables or standing in a courtyard area; (3) the applicant does not allow the off-premises sale of alcoholic beverages; (4) alcoholic beverages sales do not begin earlier than 10:00 a.m.; and (5) the applicant executes a memorandum of understanding with the Greenmount West Community Association.

Additionally, the bill authorizes the holders of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license or a Class B-D-7 beer, wine, and liquor license to sell beer, wine, and liquor from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. in a specified area. For a license holder within the bounded area, the hours of sale (1) may not begin before 9:00 a.m. or end after 10:00 p.m. and (2) may not be extended if they begin later than 9:00 a.m. or end before 10:00 p.m.

Current Law: Generally, the board is prohibited from issuing new alcoholic beverage licenses in the 40th, 41st, 43rd, 44th, and 45th alcoholic beverages districts, except under specific circumstances.

The board may issue a one-day license or a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license to restaurants in these districts if they meet a minimum capital investment of \$200,000 (excluding land and buildings) and have a seating capacity of at least 75 individuals.

Additionally, Class C beer, wine, and liquor licenses may be issued in certain locations within the 40th, 44th, and 45th districts. Several Class B-D-7 licenses may also be issued in designated areas, provided applicants meet food sales requirements, execute memorandums of understanding with community associations, and comply with other licensing conditions.

A Class A beer, wine, and liquor license holder may sell alcohol Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the Park Heights Master Plan area and from 6 a.m. to midnight elsewhere in the city. On select Sundays between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, sales are permitted from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., provided the licensee pays a supplementary fee of \$120 per Sunday by September 30. Additionally, the license holder may sell on two other Sundays during the year by paying the same fee at least two weeks in advance.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 472 (Delegate Addison) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2025
js/tso Third Reader - March 7, 2025

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