

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 987

(Baltimore County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Finance

**Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class B-OB-CRD (Office Building -
Commercial Revitalization District) Beer, Wine, and Liquor License**

This bill establishes a Class B-OB-CRD (office building – commercial revitalization district) beer, wine, and liquor license and authorizes the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners to issue up to one license in the county, as specified. The Class B-OB-CRD license authorizes the license holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption and wine for off-premises consumption if the wine is purchased along with prepared food and is not displayed in an area accessible to the public. The bill authorizes the license to be issued for an establishment within 300 feet of a place of worship if the place of worship consents in writing. The annual license fee is \$1,500. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore County revenues increase by \$1,500 beginning in FY 2026 from the issuance of one Class B-OB-CRD license. Baltimore County expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Class B-OB-CRD license may be issued only for a restaurant that (1) is located in the Towson Commercial Revitalization District and in an office building

that is at least 100,000 square feet in size; (2) previously had or has a zoning classification of BM-D.T. by the county government; and (3) is at least 100 feet from a place of worship.

The number of seats at the bar on the licensed premises may not exceed 25% of the total number of seats on the licensed premises. The bill specifies the hours of sale for a Class B-OB-CRD license are the same as a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license, which are generally Monday through Sunday from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following day.

Current Law: Generally, in Baltimore County, the board may not issue an alcoholic beverages license for an establishment that is within 300 feet of a place of worship or school. The distance from the establishment to the place of worship or school must be measured from the nearest point of the establishment to the nearest point of the building of the place of worship or school.

The prohibition does not apply to (1) the renewal or transfer of a license if, after the license was issued, a place of worship or school was built within 300 feet of the establishment; (2) the issuance of a temporary license; (3) a transfer that moves the licensed premises within the same building; (4) a transfer of ownership; (5) the renewal of a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license or a seven-day Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license, if the establishment has a seating capacity of more than 50 and is within a town center; or (6) the transfer, conversion, and issuance of specified licenses issued by December 31, 2016.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: SB 999 (Senator M. Washington) - Rules.

Information Source(s): Baltimore County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2025
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