

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 888

(Senator Henson)

Finance

Economic Matters

Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages - License and Permit Distance Requirements

This bill authorizes the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners to issue a Class B beer and wine (on-sale) license or a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license for an establishment located within 1,000 feet of a school located at the Annapolis Mall. The bill also authorizes the board to issue a dancing permit to the holder of a Class H license if the licensed premises is located within 1,000 feet in a straight line from entry to entry from a school located at the Annapolis Mall. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Anne Arundel County finances and operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Class B and Class H licenses are issued to restaurants and generally only authorize the on-premises consumption of alcohol. In Anne Arundel County, restaurants must operate a kitchen and serve hot meals at least twice each day to qualify for a Class B or Class H license.

The board may issue a dancing permit to a holder of a Class B, Class C, or Class D license. The board may also issue permits to holders of Class BLX and Class H licenses, so long

as the premises for which the license has been issued is more than 1,000 feet in a straight line from entry to entry away from a place of worship or school. A dancing permit authorizes its holder to provide music, dancing, and other legal forms of entertainment at the licensed establishment.

The annual fee for a dancing permit is \$200 for the holder of a beer and wine license; \$400 for the holder of a beer, wine, and liquor license; and no charge for the holder of a Class C license.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 1259 (Delegate Howard) - Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2025
km/tso Third Reader - March 7, 2025

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