

HOUSE BILL 1474

A2

6lr3068

By: ~~Delegate Ebersole~~ Baltimore County Delegation

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore County – Alcoholic Beverages Licenses – Transfers and Conversions**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing certain prohibitions on a transfer to different premises or a
4 conversion to a different class of license that apply to certain alcoholic beverages
5 licenses issued, reissued, or transferred by the Board of License Commissioners for
6 Baltimore County; requiring certain Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses in
7 existence on a certain date to be converted into certain Class B hotel and restaurant
8 licenses before a certain date; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses
9 in Baltimore County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
12 Section 13–102 and 13–1604(a), (b)(1) and (2), and (e)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
17 Section ~~13–1604(f)~~ 13–1604(c)(6) and (f)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 BY repealing
21 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
22 Section 13–1705, 13–1706, 13–1707, and 13–1709

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 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

5 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis**

6 13–102.

7 This title applies only in Baltimore County.

8 13–1604.

9 (a) In this section, “eligible transferor district” means an election district in which
10 the total number of Class B and Class D licenses, excluding exception licenses, is 10% or
11 greater than the total number of Class B and Class D licenses that are allowed in an
12 election district based on the rule of the Board that limits the total number of licenses
13 available in an election district by population.

14 (b) (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, the Board may
15 approve the transfer of a Class B or Class D license in existence in an eligible transferor
16 district on June 1, 2025, to another election district if:

17 (i) the approval occurs anytime from June 1, 2025, to May 31, 2028,
18 both inclusive; and

19 (ii) prior to the transfer, the number of licenses in existence in the
20 election district to which the license is to be transferred is not greater than 25% more than
21 the number of licenses that would otherwise exist in that election district, based on the rule
22 of the Board that limits the total number of licenses available in an election district by
23 population.

24 (2) (i) The Board may not authorize the transfer of more than five Class
25 B or Class D licenses in existence on June 1, 2025, in total under this section.

26 (ii) Not more than two licenses may be transferred under this
27 subsection into any single election district.

28 (c) (6) A [Class B or D license transferred under subsection (b) of this section
29 or a] Class B Service Bar (SB) license issued under this subsection may not thereafter be
30 transferred from the licensed premises or converted to another class of license.

31 (e) (1) When a license is transferred from an eligible transferor district to
32 another election district under this section, the license does not continue to exist in the
33 eligible transferor district from which it was transferred.

1 (2) Subject to the 25% allowance authorized in subsection (b)(1)(ii) of this
2 section, the Board shall consider a license transferred under this section to be a regular
3 license and not an exception license for determining the total number of licenses available
4 in an election district based on the rule of the Board.

5 (f) [(1)] The Board[:

6 (i)] shall convert a Class D license that is transferred from an eligible
7 transferor district to any other election district to a Class B license[; and

8 (ii) may not thereafter transfer the Class B license from the licensed
9 premises or convert the license to another class of license.

10 (2) The Board may not transfer from a licensed premises or convert a
11 license to another class of license:

12 (i) a new license issued by the Board based on an increase in
13 population under the rule of the Board limiting the total number of licenses available by
14 population; or

15 (ii) a license that has been revoked and reissued by the Board].

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
17 as follows:

18 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

19 [13–1705.

20 (a) (1) Notwithstanding the license population quota limitations established
21 by the Board and in addition to the licenses authorized for issuance in the county, the Board
22 may authorize the transfer into the Towson Commercial Revitalization District, as defined
23 by the Baltimore County Council, of not more than 10 beer, wine, and liquor (on–sale)
24 licenses that:

25 (i) were issued on or before December 31, 2008;

26 (ii) were in existence in Election District 15 of the county on June 1,
27 2009; and

28 (iii) are valid on the date of transfer.

29 (2) To be transferred under this section, a license:

30 (i) shall be a Class B or a Class D license; and

1 (ii) may not be a license that is prohibited from being transferred by
2 statute or regulation.

3 (3) For determining the total number of licenses available in an election
4 district, the Board shall consider a license transferred under this section to be a regular
5 license and not an exception to the population and numerical limitations specified in “Rule
6 19 – Population and Numerical Limitations” of the Rules and Regulations of the Board.

7 (4) On the date of transfer, a license transferred under this section shall be
8 converted into a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (Towson Commercial Revitalization District)
9 license and may not be counted toward any population limit existing in the election district
10 from where it was transferred.

11 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the license issuance
12 requirements, license fee, minimum square foot area requirement for food and beverage
13 preparation and consumption, and days and hours of sale for a Class B beer, wine, and
14 liquor (Towson Commercial Revitalization District) (on–sale) license are the same as those
15 for a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (on–sale) hotel and restaurant license.

16 (c) (1) A Class B beer, wine, and liquor (Towson Commercial Revitalization
17 District) license may be issued only for a location within the Towson Commercial
18 Revitalization District, as defined by the Baltimore County Council.

19 (2) The license shall be used in conjunction with the operation of a
20 restaurant, as defined in this article and in the regulations of the Board.

21 (3) The restaurant operation shall maintain average daily receipts from
22 the sale of food of at least 60% of the total daily receipts of the restaurant.

23 (4) The seating capacity for the bar area may not exceed 25% of the total
24 seating capacity of the restaurant.

25 (5) Except as provided in subsection (d)(2)(ii) of this section, the area
26 dedicated to the restaurant operation shall have a minimum seating capacity of 100
27 individuals.

28 (6) The hours during which the privileges conferred by the license may be
29 exercised may not exceed the hours during which food is offered for sale.

30 (7) The license does not confer an off–sale privilege.

31 (d) Of the restaurants for which a Class B or Class D license may be transferred
32 and a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (Towson Commercial Revitalization District) license
33 may be issued under subsection (a)(1) of this section, the Board may require that:

1 (1) for not more than seven restaurants, applicants for license transfer and
2 issuance demonstrate a minimum capital investment, excluding the costs of the land and
3 building shell, of \$500,000; and

4 (2) for not more than three restaurants:

5 (i) applicants for license transfer and issuance demonstrate a
6 capital investment, excluding the costs of the land and building shell, of not less than
7 \$50,000 or more than \$400,000; and

8 (ii) the area dedicated to the restaurant operation have:

9 1. a maximum seating capacity of 100 individuals, with the
10 seating capacity in the bar area not exceeding 25% of the total seating capacity of the
11 restaurant; and

12 2. a minimum seating capacity of 40 individuals.

13 (e) The Board shall deny an application for transfer of a Class B or Class D license
14 and issuance of a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (Towson Commercial Revitalization
15 District) license if within 2 years immediately preceding the application:

16 (1) (i) the applicant was a holder of an on-sale license within the
17 boundaries of the Towson Commercial Revitalization District; or

18 (ii) there was an on-sale license in existence for the proposed
19 premises of the applicant; and

20 (2) the previous on-sale license was transferred to premises outside the
21 Towson Commercial Revitalization District.

22 (f) A Class B beer, wine, and liquor (Towson Commercial Revitalization District)
23 license issued under this section may not be transferred from the Towson Commercial
24 Revitalization District or be converted into any other class of license.]

25 [13-1706.

26 (a) (1) Notwithstanding the license population quota limitations established
27 by the Board and in addition to the licenses authorized for issuance in the county, the Board
28 may authorize the transfer into the "Hunt Valley Commercial/Mixed Use Focal Point" as
29 designated in the Hunt Valley/Timonium Master Plan, adopted by the Baltimore County
30 Council on October 19, 1998, of two beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) retail licenses that:

31 (i) were in existence in Election District 15 on July 1, 2004; and

32 (ii) are valid on the date of transfer.

1 (2) A license transferred under this section:

2 (i) may not be a Class A or C license or a license that is prohibited
3 from being transferred by law or local regulation other than crossing district lines;

4 (ii) shall be converted into a Class B (HV) license; and

5 (iii) as of the date of transfer, may not be counted toward any
6 population limit existing in Election District 15.

7 (3) For determining the total number of licenses available in an election
8 district, the Board shall consider a license transferred under this section to be a regular
9 license and not an exception to the population and numerical limitations specified in “Rule
10 19 – Population and Numerical Limitations” of the Rules and Regulations of the Board.

11 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the license issuance
12 requirements, license fee, minimum square foot area requirement for food and beverage
13 preparation and consumption, and days and hours of sale for a Class B (HV) restaurant
14 (on–sale) beer, wine, and liquor license are the same as those provided for in this article
15 and in the regulations of the Board for a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (on–sale) hotel and
16 restaurant license.

17 (c) (1) A Class B (HV) restaurant (on–sale) beer, wine, and liquor retail license
18 may be issued only for a location within the “Hunt Valley Commercial/Mixed Use Focal
19 Point” as designated in the Hunt Valley/Timonium Master Plan, adopted by the Baltimore
20 County Council on October 19, 1998.

21 (2) The license shall be used in conjunction with the operation of a
22 restaurant, as defined in this article and the regulations of the Board.

23 (3) The restaurant operation shall maintain average daily receipts from
24 the sale of food of at least 60% of the total daily receipts of the establishment.

25 (4) The total seating capacity for the area dedicated primarily for the
26 consumption of alcoholic beverages may not exceed 25% of the total seating capacity of the
27 establishment.

28 (5) Subject to subsection (d)(5) of this section, the hours during which the
29 privileges conferred by the license may be exercised may not exceed the hours for which
30 food is offered for sale.

31 (d) (1) The Class B (HV) restaurant beer, wine, and liquor license authorizes
32 on–premises consumption.

33 (2) Once issued, the license may not be:

1 (i) transferred to a new location other than the original location for
2 which the license was issued; or

3 (ii) converted into any other class of license.

4 (3) Paragraph (2) of this subsection does not prohibit the transfer of
5 ownership of the license.

6 (4) The premises shall comply with all applicable zoning regulations.

7 (5) Alcoholic beverages may be sold in the establishment only until 1:30
8 a.m.

9 (e) The Board may not issue more than a total of three beer, wine, and liquor
10 licenses in the “Hunt Valley Commercial/Mixed Use Focal Point” under the exceptions in
11 “Rule 19 – Population and Numerical Limitations” of the Rules and Regulations of the
12 Board.]

13 [13–1707.

14 (a) (1) Notwithstanding the license population quota limitations established
15 by the Board and in addition to the licenses authorized for issuance in the county, the Board
16 may authorize the transfer of the number of Class B and Class D beer, wine, and liquor
17 (on-sale) retail licenses in existence in Election District 15 on January 15, 2005, and valid
18 on the date of transfer, in accordance with the following schedule:

19 (i) two to the Quarry at Greenspring, to be known as (QG) licenses,
20 on or after April 1, 2005, located at lots 1 through 9, inclusive, identified on the plat of
21 Greenspring Quarry, areas F, G, and K, dated December 21, 2004, and delivered to the
22 county for recording on December 29, 2004;

23 (ii) three to the area of State-owned land adjacent to and abutting
24 the Owings Mills Metro Station, governed by a master development agreement creating the
25 Metro Center at Owings Mills, to be known as (MCOM) licenses, on or after October 1, 2005;
26 and

27 (iii) three to the Promenade at Catonsville, to be known as (PC)
28 licenses, on or after April 1, 2006, located at and identified by the State Department of
29 Assessments and Taxation map 101, parcels 132, 516, 1088, 1344, 1804, and 1985.

30 (2) A license transferred from Election District 15 under this section:

31 (i) may not be a Class A or Class C license or a license that is
32 prohibited from being transferred by law or local regulation other than the prohibition
33 against crossing district lines;

1 (ii) for determining the total number of licenses available in an
2 election district, shall be considered to be a regular license in its new location and not an
3 exception to the population and numerical limitations specified in “Rule 19 – Population
4 and Numerical Limitations” of the Rules and Regulations of the Board;

5 (iii) shall be converted into a Class B (QG), (MCOM), or (PC) license;
6 and

7 (iv) as of the date of transfer, may not be counted toward any
8 population limit existing in Election District 15.

9 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the license issuance and
10 renewal requirements, minimum square foot area requirement for food and beverage
11 preparation and consumption, and days and hours of sale for a Class B (QG), (MCOM), or
12 (PC) restaurant (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor retail license are the same as those
13 provided for in this article and in the regulations of the Board for a Class B beer, wine, and
14 liquor (on-sale) hotel and restaurant license.

15 (c) (1) A Class B (QG), (MCOM), or (PC) restaurant (on-sale) beer, wine, and
16 liquor retail license may be issued only for a location within the geographic areas identified
17 in subsection (a)(1) of this section.

18 (2) The license shall be used in conjunction with the operation of a
19 restaurant, as defined in this article and the regulations of the Board.

20 (3) The restaurant operation shall maintain average daily receipts from
21 the sale of food of at least 60% of the total daily receipts of the establishment.

22 (4) The total seating capacity for the area dedicated primarily for the
23 consumption of alcoholic beverages may not exceed 25% of the total seating capacity of the
24 establishment.

25 (5) Subject to subsection (d)(5) of this section, the hours during which the
26 privileges conferred by the license may be exercised may not exceed the hours for which
27 food is offered for sale.

28 (d) (1) A Class B (QG), (MCOM), or (PC) restaurant (on-sale) beer, wine, and
29 liquor retail license authorizes on-premises consumption.

30 (2) Once issued, the license may not be:

31 (i) transferred to a new location outside the geographic area, as
32 defined in subsection (a)(1) of this section, for which the license was issued; or

33 (ii) converted into any other class of license.

34 (3) Paragraph (2) of this subsection does not prohibit the transfer of:

1 (i) the ownership of a license; or

2 (ii) the location of a licensed establishment within the geographic
3 area as defined in subsection (a)(1) of this section.

4 (4) The premises shall comply with all applicable zoning regulations.

5 (5) Alcoholic beverages may be sold in the establishment only until 1:30
6 a.m.]

7 [13–1709.

8 (a) (1) Notwithstanding any license quota limitation established by the Board
9 and in addition to the licenses authorized for issuance in the county, the Board may
10 authorize the transfer of one Class B or Class D beer, wine, and liquor license in existence
11 in Election District 15 on January 15, 2016, and valid on the date of transfer, to a location
12 that is:

13 (i) at 2200 York Road and surrounding grounds in Election District
14 8; and

15 (ii) owned by the Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society, Inc.

16 (2) A license transferred under this section:

17 (i) may not be a license that is prohibited from being transferred by
18 law or Board regulation, other than a prohibition against crossing district lines;

19 (ii) for determining the total number of licenses available in Election
20 District 8, shall be considered to be a regular license and not an exception to the population
21 and numerical limitations specified in “Rule 19 – Population and Numerical Limitations”
22 of the Rules and Regulations of the Board;

23 (iii) shall be converted into a Class B (MSF)(on–sale) beer, wine, and
24 liquor license; and

25 (iv) as of the date of transfer, may not be counted toward any
26 population limit existing in Election District 15.

27 (b) The issuance and renewal requirements, minimum square foot area
28 requirement for food and beverage preparation and consumption, and hours and days of
29 sale for the Class B (MSF) license are the same as those provided for a Class B beer, wine,
30 and liquor (on–sale) hotel and restaurant license.

31 (c) (1) The Class B (MSF) license may not be:

1 (i) transferred to a location outside the area for which the license
2 was issued; or

3 (ii) converted into another class of license.

4 (2) The location for the Class B (MSF) license shall comply with all
5 applicable zoning regulations.】

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding any license
7 population quota limitation established by the Board of License Commissioners for
8 Baltimore County, the following Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses in existence on July
9 1, 2026, shall be converted into Class B hotel and restaurant licenses under § 13–902 of the
10 Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article:

11 (1) Class B (Towson Commercial Revitalization District) licenses under §
12 13–1705 of the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article;

13 (2) Class B (HV) restaurant (on–sale) licenses under § 13–1706 of the
14 Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article;

15 (3) Class B (QG), (MCOM), or (PC) restaurant (on–sale) licenses under §
16 13–1707 of the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article;

17 (4) Class B (MSF) (on–sale) licenses under § 13–1709 of the Alcoholic
18 Beverages and Cannabis Article;

19 (5) Class B (OMTC) (on–sale) licenses established under Chapter 423 of
20 the Acts of the General Assembly of 1996; and

21 (6) Class B (TRD) restaurant (on–sale) licenses established under Chapter
22 365 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2003.

23 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take
24 effect October 1, 2026.

25 SECTION ~~2~~ 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in
26 Section 4 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.