

# SENATE BILL 75

A1  
SB 1139/24 – SRU

(PRE-FILED)

6lr1125

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By: Senator Hayes

Requested: October 8, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Alcoholic Beverages – Class A License – Food Retailers**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a food retailer to offer to purchase a Class A license from a  
4 Class A license holder under certain circumstances; authorizing a food retailer to  
5 apply to a local licensing board for a Class A license under certain circumstances;  
6 and generally relating to Class A alcoholic beverages licenses for food retailers.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis  
9 Section 4–205 and 4–303  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY adding to  
13 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis  
14 Section 4–205.1  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis**

20 4–205.

21 (a) This section does not apply to:

22 (1) an establishment that already holds a Class A, Class B, or Class D beer  
23 license, beer and wine license, or beer, wine, and liquor license; or

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) a license holder that sells alcoholic beverages at discount prices.

(b) [A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 4-205.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A local licensing board may not issue a Class A, Class B, or Class D beer license, beer and wine license, or beer, wine, and liquor license for use in conjunction with or on the premises of:

(1) a chain store;

(2) a supermarket; or

(3) a discount house.

8 4-205.1.

9 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
10 INDICATED.

**(I) NEITHER PARTY IS ACTING UNDER COMPELSION; AND**

(II) BOTH PARTIES HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF ALL OF THE

(3) "FOOD RETAILER" MEANS A RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT THAT:

**(I) OFFERS FOR SALE FOOD PRODUCTS IN AT LEAST FIVE OF CATEGORIES:**

## 1. FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:

## 2. FRESH AND UNCOOKED MEAT, POULTRY, AND

### 3. DAIRY PRODUCTS:

#### 4 CANNED FOODS.

5 FROZEN FOODS: AND

## 6 DBY GROCERIES AND BAKED GOODS:

**3 (III) HAS A MINIMUM OF 3,200 SQUARE FEET; AND**

10           **(B) (1) A FOOD RETAILER LOCATED LESS THAN 3,000 FEET FROM A**  
11           **CLASS A LICENSE HOLDER MAY OFFER TO PURCHASE THE CLASS A LICENSE FROM**  
12           **THE LICENSE HOLDER AT FAIR MARKET VALUE.**

20 (I) A CLASS A BEER LICENSE:

21 (II) A CLASS A BEER AND WINE LICENSE: OR

(iii) A CLASS A BEER AND LIGHT WINE LICENSE.

23 (C) IF A LICENSE HOLDER DOES NOT ACCEPT A FOOD RETA

23 (C) IF A LICENSE HOLDER DOES NOT ACCEPT A FOOD RETAILER'S OFFER,  
24 THE FOOD RETAILER MAY APPLY TO A LOCAL LICENSING BOARD FOR A CLASS A  
25 BEER OR BEER AND WINE LICENSE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL LICENSING  
26 BOARD'S RULES.

27 (D) (1) IF A LICENSE HOLDER ASSERTS THAT A FOOD RETAILER'S OFFER  
28 WAS NOT AT FAIR MARKET VALUE, THE LICENSE HOLDER SHALL HAVE STANDING TO  
29 SEEK JUDICIAL REVIEW.

8           **(E) AN APPLICATION FOR A CLASS A BEER OR BEER AND WINE LICENSE**  
9   **MADE BY A FOOD RETAILER:**

10 (1) IS PRESUMED TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY;  
11 AND

12 (2) MAY NOT BE DENIED FOR ANY REASON OTHER THAN A REASON  
13 TRADITIONALLY CONSIDERED BY A LOCAL LICENSING BOARD.

14 4-303.

15       **[A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 4-205.1 OF THIS TITLE, A Class A, Class B, or**  
16       Class D beer license, beer and wine license, or beer, wine, and liquor license may not be  
17       transferred for use in conjunction with or on the premises of a chain store, supermarket, or  
18       discount house unless:

19 (1) the establishment already holds a Class A, Class B, or Class D beer  
20 license, beer and wine license, or beer, wine, and liquor license; or

21 (2) the license is transferred to a similar type of establishment.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
23 1, 2026.