

SENATE BILL 442

A2

6lr3098

By: **Anne Arundel County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Anne Arundel County – Population Ratio Quota for Class A (Off-Sale) and Class**
3 **D (Off-Sale) Licenses – Exemption**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing an exemption to the population ratio quota for certain
5 Class A (off-sale) and Class D (off-sale) licenses in Anne Arundel County; and
6 generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Anne Arundel County.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
9 Section 11–102
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
14 Section 11–1602
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 11–102.

21 This title applies only in Anne Arundel County.

22 11–1602.

23 (a) In this section, “assessment district” means a tax assessment district:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(1) established by the county; and

(2) shown on the official map adopted by the County Council titled “Tax Assessment Districts, 2005”.

(b) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, the Board may issue a Class A (off-sale), Class B (off-sale), or Class D (off-sale) license based on its determination of whether the license is necessary to accommodate the public.

(c) If the application is for a Class A (off-sale) or Class D (off-sale) license, the Board may not issue the license if:

(1) the establishment for which the license would be issued is located in an assessment district in which the ratio of off-sale licenses per individual exceeds one for every 3,500 individuals; or

(2) the issuance of the license would cause the ratio of off-sale licenses per individual in an assessment district to exceed one for every 3,500 individuals.

(d) Subsection (c) of this section does not apply:

(1) to the transfer or renewal of a license that was issued on or before July 1, 2025;

(2) in the 6th tax assessment district; [or]

(3) to an application for an on-site consumption permit under § 2-207 of this article by an applicant that holds a Class 5 brewery license; OR

(4) TO AN APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE FILED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2023, AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD BEFORE JULY 1, 2025.

(e) The population of each assessment district is to be determined by:

(1) the latest federal census; or

(2) estimates prepared by the Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning.

(f) The Board may not approve the transfer of a Class A (off-sale) license or Class D (off-sale) license:

(1) to a location outside the assessment district in which the license was located on July 1, 2025; or

1 (2) if the license was not in existence as of July 1, 2025, to a location outside
2 the assessment district in which the license was originally issued.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
4 1, 2026. It shall remain effective until the taking effect of the termination provision
5 specified in Section 2 of Chapters 818 and 819 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2025.
6 If that termination provision takes effect, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force
7 and effect. This Act may not be interpreted to have any effect on that termination provision.