

Chapter 855

(Senate Bill 400)

AN ACT concerning

Anne Arundel County – Alcoholic Beverages – Entertainment Permits

FOR the purpose of altering the titles of certain entertainment permits for certain alcoholic beverages license holders in Anne Arundel County; altering the authorized forms of entertainment that certain entertainment permit holders in the county may provide; adding a certain zoning requirement for residential property applicable to certain entertainment permit holders in the county; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages entertainment permits in Anne Arundel County.

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

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 11–1102(a), (b), (c), and (d)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

11–102.

This title applies only in Anne Arundel County.

11–1102.

(a) (1) On the premises, or on adjacent property over which a license holder has ownership or control, a license holder:

but (i) may allow piped-in background music or one television screen;

(ii) unless issued a permit described in this section that authorizes the activity, may not allow:

1. the playing of music, including live music;

2. the operation of a karaoke machine;

3. the playing of music by a disc jockey; or

4. [dancing,] floor shows[,] or any other similar type of entertainment.

(2) The Board may issue a permit described in this section only if the Board finds that:

(i) the applicant can control the individuals using the licensed premises;

(ii) the operation of the premises under the permit will not unduly disturb the peace of the residents of the neighborhood in which the place of business is located; and

(iii) the issuing of the permit:

1. is necessary to accommodate the public;

2. will not be detrimental to the public welfare; and

3. will not violate a county fire, health, or building regulation.

(b) (1) There is a [music] **BACKGROUND ENTERTAINMENT** permit.

(2) The Board may issue the permit to a holder of a Class B license, a Class BLX license, a Class D license, or a Class H license.

(3) The permit authorizes the playing of:

(I) MORE THAN ONE TELEVISION; AND

(II) recorded music or [live music with not more than two musicians] PIPED-IN BACKGROUND MUSIC.

(4) The permit holder may not allow [dancing,] floor shows[,] or similar live entertainment.

(5) The annual permit fee is \$100.

(c) (1) There is [an] **A GENERAL** entertainment permit.

(2) The Board may issue the permit to a holder of a Class B license, a Class BLX license, a Class D license, or a Class H license.

(3) The permit authorizes:

(i) **THE HOLDER TO PROVIDE THE ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWED UNDER A BACKGROUND ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT;**

(ii) live music with not more than four musicians; and

[(ii)] (iii) the playing of:

1. [more than one television] **TRIVIA GAMES;**
2. a karaoke machine; and
3. music by a disc jockey.

(4) (i) The permit holder may not allow [dancing,] floor shows[,] or similar live entertainment.

(ii) **IF THE ENTERTAINMENT AUTHORIZED UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION WILL OCCUR OUTSIDE, THE AREA USED FOR THE EVENT SHALL BE AT LEAST 100 FEET FROM ANY RESIDENTIALLY ZONED PROPERTY.**

(5) The annual permit fees are:

- (i) \$200 for a holder of a beer and wine license; and
- (ii) \$300 for a holder of a beer, wine, and liquor license.

(d) (1) There is a [dancing] **FULL ENTERTAINMENT** permit.

(2) The Board may issue the permit to a holder of:

- (i) a Class B license;
- (ii) except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, a Class BLX license;
- (iii) a Class C license;
- (iv) a Class D license; or

(v) except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, a Class H license.

(3) The permit authorizes the holder to provide:

(I) THE ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWED UNDER A GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT; AND

(II) music, [dancing] A PERMANENT DANCE FLOOR, A STAGE AREA, FLOOR SHOWS, and other legal forms of entertainment.

(4) (i) The Board may not issue the permit to a holder of a Class BLX license or a Class H license if the premises for which the Class BLX license or Class H license is issued is within 1,000 feet in a straight line from entry to entry from a place of worship or school.

(ii) Notwithstanding subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the Board may issue the 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.

(III) IF THE ENTERTAINMENT AUTHORIZED UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION WILL OCCUR OUTSIDE, THE AREA USED FOR THE EVENT SHALL BE AT LEAST 100 FEET FROM ANY RESIDENTIALLY ZONED PROPERTY.

(5) The annual permit fees are:

(i) \$200 for a holder of a beer and wine license;

(ii) \$400 for a holder of a beer, wine, and liquor license; and

(iii) no charge for a holder of a Class C license.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 26, 2026.