

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 441

(Anne Arundel County Senators)

Finance

Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages - Golf Course License and Sports Activity Venue Licenses

This bill establishes a Class C (golf course) license; a sports activity venue beer and wine license; and a sports activity venue beer, wine, and liquor license in Anne Arundel County. The Class C (golf course) license may be issued to a golf course with at least nine holes, and the sports activity venue licenses may be issued to a commercial recreational facility that offers specified sports activities. A license authorizes the license holder to sell specified alcoholic beverages at retail at the place described in the license for on-premises consumption. A license holder may sell alcoholic beverages as licensed Monday through Sunday from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following day and does not need a Sunday permit to sell on Sundays. The annual license for a Class C (golf course) license and a sports activity venue beer, wine, and liquor license is \$1,200. The annual license fee for a sports activity venue beer and wine license is \$740. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Anne Arundel County revenues increase, beginning in FY 2027, to the extent new licenses are issued. Anne Arundel County expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary:

Class C (Golf Course) License

A Class C (golf course) license authorizes the sale of beer, wine, and liquor. The Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners may (1) place conditions on the location of sale and consumption, including prohibiting the sale or consumption of alcohol in certain areas of the premises and (2) reduce the hours and days of sale for all or part of the licensed premises.

Sports Activity Venue Licenses

The board may issue a sports activity venue license to the owner or operator of a commercial recreational facility that offers bowling, golf or multisport stimulators, pickleball courts, indoor gymnasiums or training centers, or any similar sport activity or venue. The license authorizes sales to a customer who is at least 21 years old and is either (1) actively participating in the venue's dining or recreational services, or (2) on the licensed premises as a guest of a participant.

A sports activity venue license holder may sell alcoholic beverages authorized by the license at retail for on-premises consumption at the licensed location. The license holder may sell or serve alcohol only in certain areas designated for activity, seating, bar service, and dining, such as private party rooms.

The license holder must (1) offer food items for sale during all hours that alcoholic beverages are for sale; (2) require employees serving alcohol to be certified by an approved alcohol awareness training program; (3) implement a written policy for employees to monitor and limit service to customers participating in physical activities; and (4) obtain a crowd control training certificate where the occupant load exceeds 50 people.

Current Law: Maryland's 23 counties, Baltimore City, and the City of Annapolis all have boards of license commissioners who issue and enforce retail alcoholic beverages licenses in their jurisdictions. Within each jurisdiction, the most common types of retail licenses are Class A, Class B, Class C, and Class D licenses. Each license authorizes the sale of alcoholic beverages in a different manner. Class C licenses authorize the sale of alcohol to members and guests at a club, for on-site consumption only.

Class C license holders in Anne Arundel County may sell beer, wine, and liquor Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following day. They may not sell beer, wine, or liquor after 2 a.m. on Sundays without a Sunday license. The board may issue a

Sunday license to a Class C license holder, authorizing the sale of beer, wine, and liquor on Sunday according to the terms of that license.

The Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners issues several licenses for specific types of organizations and venues, including country club licenses, yacht club licenses, and country and golf club licenses, among others.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 682 (Delegate Pruski) - Government, Labor, and Elections.

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

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