

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 727 (Delegate Rogers, *et al.*)
Government, Labor, and Elections

Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class C (Veterans' Organization)
Licenses - Membership

This bill alters the criteria for a Class C (veterans' organization) license in Anne Arundel County to include the local unit of a nationwide nonprofit organization or club that is composed only of members who served in the *uniformed services*, rather than the armed forces, thereby incorporating veterans' organizations with members who served in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Public Health Service (PHS). **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Anne Arundel County finances and operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: "Uniformed services," as defined by 37 U.S.C. § 101, refers to the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, Coast Guard, NOAA, and PHS.

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 (veterans' organization) licenses can be issued by the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners only to a local unit of a nationwide nonprofit organization or club that (1) is composed only of veterans of the *Armed Forces of the United States in a war in which the United States has been engaged*; (2) has a charter from a national veterans' organization; (3) has a membership of at least 100 individuals and dues of at least \$5 per year per individual; and (4) operates for its members and meets in a clubhouse principally used by its members.

The annual license fee for a Class C (veterans' organization) license in Anne Arundel County is \$300.

Chapters 253 and 254 of 2025 revised the definitions of several military terms throughout the Code of Maryland and replaced references to the *armed forces* with *uniformed services* to incorporate those who served in PHS and NOAA.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: SB 76 (Senator Simonaire) - Finance.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2026
sj/tso

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