

Chapter 828

(House Bill 569)

AN ACT concerning

Dorchester County – Alcoholic Beverages – Beer, Wine, and Liquor Tasting License

FOR the purpose of authorizing certain Class A license holders in Dorchester County to conduct tastings of liquor under certain circumstances, in addition to tastings of beer or wine; limiting the quantity of liquor allowed per individual for tastings; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Dorchester County.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 19–102
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 19–1306
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

19–102.

This title applies only in Dorchester County.

19–1306.

(a) There is a beer [and], wine, **AND LIQUOR** tasting [(BWT)] **(BWLT)** license.

(b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Board may issue the license to a holder of a Class A license to hold tastings of beer [or], wine, **OR LIQUOR**.

(2) [The holder of a Class A beer license may use the license to hold tastings of beer only] **A LICENSE HOLDER MAY NOT HOLD TASTINGS OF ANY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES THAT THE LICENSE HOLDER IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO SELL UNDER THE HOLDER’S CLASS A LICENSE.**

(c) The license authorizes the holder to allow the consumption of beer [or], wine, **OR LIQUOR** for tasting if:

(1) the consumer is not charged for the beer [or], wine, **OR LIQUOR**; and

(2) the beer [or], wine, **OR LIQUOR** is consumed on the premises of the holder of the Class A license.

(d) (1) An applicant for the license shall submit to the Board an application on a form that the Board provides.

(2) The Board may not require the publication of a license application before issuing the license.

(3) The Board may issue the license without a public hearing.

(4) If an initial license application is denied:

(i) the applicant may resubmit the application; and

(ii) on request from the applicant, the Board shall hold a public hearing on the license application before determining whether to issue the license.

(5) The license holder shall notify the Board in writing at least 7 days before the event at which the license is to be used.

(6) Renewal of the license may be made when the holder's Class A license is renewed.

(e) An individual may consume beer [or], wine, **OR LIQUOR** covered by the license in a quantity of not more than:

(1) (i) 3 ounces from each offering of beer; and

(ii) 8 ounces from all offerings of beer in 1 day; [and]

(2) (i) 1 ounce from each offering of wine; and

(ii) 4 ounces from all offerings of wine in 1 day; **AND**

(3) (I) 0.5 OUNCES FROM EACH OFFERING OF LIQUOR; AND

(II) 1.5 OUNCES FROM ALL OFFERINGS OF LIQUOR IN 1 DAY.

(f) At the end of the day for which the license is valid, the license holder shall properly dispose of beer [or], wine, **OR LIQUOR** that remains in a container that was opened for tasting.

(g) The license fee is:

(1) \$150 for not more than 15 beer [or], wine, **OR LIQUOR** tastings per year; or

(2) \$250 for not more than 30 beer [or], wine, **OR LIQUOR** tastings per year.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.