

HOUSE BILL 564

A2

5lr2671
CF 5lr2673

By: **Dorchester County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2025

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Dorchester County – Alcoholic Beverages – Venue Beer, Wine, and Liquor**
3 **License**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing in Dorchester County a venue beer, wine, and liquor
5 license that authorizes the holder to sell or serve beer, wine, and liquor for
6 on-premises consumption during an event where food is served; authorizing the
7 Board of License Commissioners for Dorchester County to issue the license to a
8 nonprofit or for-profit retail business that hosts private or public events at a venue
9 that meets certain criteria; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in
10 Dorchester County.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
13 Section 19–102
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2024 Replacement Volume)

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
18 Section 19–1001
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2024 Replacement Volume)

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

23 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis**

24 19–102.

25 This title applies only in Dorchester County.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **19-1001.**

2 (A) **THERE IS A VENUE BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE.**

3 (B) **THE BOARD MAY ISSUE THE LICENSE TO A NONPROFIT OR FOR-PROFIT**
4 **RETAIL BUSINESS THAT HOSTS WEDDINGS, BANQUETS, PARTIES, MEETINGS, AND**
5 **SIMILAR EVENTS, WHETHER PRIVATE OR OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AT A VENUE THAT:**

6 (1) **IS AT LEAST 2,000 SQUARE FEET IN SIZE;**

7 (2) **CAN ACCOMMODATE AT LEAST 100 INDIVIDUALS FOR A SINGLE**
8 **EVENT, WHETHER INSIDE THE VENUE OR OUTSIDE ON THE VENUE'S PREMISES; AND**

9 (3) **HAS ADEQUATE BATHROOM FACILITIES.**

10 (C) (1) **THE LICENSE AUTHORIZES THE LICENSE HOLDER TO SELL OR**
11 **SERVE BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR AT RETAIL, BY THE DRINK OR BY THE BOTTLE, FOR**
12 **ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION:**

13 (I) **DURING AN EVENT HOSTED BY THE LICENSE HOLDER AT**
14 **THE LICENSE HOLDER'S VENUE; AND**

15 (II) **ONLY IF FOOD IS ALSO PROVIDED DURING THE EVENT.**

16 (2) **A LICENSE HOLDER MAY NOT ALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL TO CARRY**
17 **BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR ONTO OR OFF THE LICENSED PREMISES.**

18 (D) **THE LICENSE MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER LOCATION.**

19 (E) **THE LICENSE HOLDER MAY SELL BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR DURING THE**
20 **HOURS AND DAYS AS SET OUT FOR A CLASS B BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE**
21 **UNDER § 19-2005 OF THIS TITLE.**

22 (F) **THE ANNUAL FEE FOR THE LICENSE IS \$1,500.**

23 (G) **THE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.**

24 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**
25 **1, 2025.**