

HOUSE BILL 564

A2

5lr2671
CF SB 802

By: **Dorchester County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2025

Assigned to: Economic Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2025

CHAPTER _____

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; authorizing the Board to issue the license to an
10 establishment that is within a certain distance of a place of worship or school with
11 the written consent of the place of worship or school; and generally relating to
12 alcoholic beverages licenses in Dorchester County.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
15 Section 19–102
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2024 Replacement Volume)

18 BY adding to
19 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
20 Section 19–1001
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2024 Replacement Volume)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 19–1601
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.

19–1001.

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

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

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

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

(3) HAS ADEQUATE BATHROOM FACILITIES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(G) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.
19-1601.

(a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Board may not issue a new license for an establishment that is within 300 feet in a direct line of a place of worship or a public or nonpublic kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school.

(2) The distance from the establishment to the place of worship or the public or nonpublic kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school is to be measured from the establishment in a direct line to the nearest point of the main building of the place of worship or school.

(b) The prohibition against issuing a license in subsection (a) of this section does not apply to the issuance of:

(1) a license for a premises that was licensed on October 1, 1996;

(2) a Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license for a premises in Cambridge, Secretary, or Hurlock; [or]

(3) a temporary license; OR

(4) A VENUE BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE IF THE BOARD RECEIVES WRITTEN CONSENT TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE LICENSE FROM EACH PLACE OF WORSHIP OR SCHOOL LOCATED WITHIN 300 FEET IN A DIRECT LINE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT FOR WHICH THE LICENSE IS SOUGHT.

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