

Chapter 831

(House Bill 1335)

AN ACT concerning

**Caroline County – Alcoholic Beverages – ~~Rural~~ Special Event Venue License
and Multiple Event Licenses**

FOR the purpose of establishing the ~~rural~~ special event venue beer, wine, and liquor license ~~as a multiple event license~~ in Caroline County; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Caroline County to issue the license to the owner of a venue with a certain zoning classification; authorizing holders of certain multiple event licenses in Caroline County to store alcoholic beverages on the licensed premises for a certain purpose; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Caroline County.

~~BY renumbering~~

~~Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 15–1309
to be Section 15–1310
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume)~~

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

BY adding to
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section ~~15–1309~~ 15–1004
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 15–1308
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing ~~and reenacting, with amendments,~~
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section ~~15–1310~~ 15–1309
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume)
~~(As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)~~

~~SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 15-1309 of Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 15-1310.~~

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

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

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

15-102.

This title applies only in Caroline County.

~~15-1309.~~ 15-1004.

(A) THERE IS A ~~RURAL~~ SPECIAL EVENT VENUE BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE.

(B) THE BOARD MAY ISSUE THE LICENSE:

(1) TO THE OWNER OF A ~~VENUE THAT IS ZONED AS A RURAL~~ SPECIAL EVENT VENUE ~~UNDER COUNTY LAW~~; AND

(2) (I) TO THE SAME APPLICANT FOR ALL EVENTS FOR WHICH THE LICENSE IS ISSUED; AND

(II) FOR USE AT ONLY ONE PREMISES.

(C) THE LICENSE AUTHORIZES THE LICENSE HOLDER TO SELL BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR FOR ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION.

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

(E) A LICENSE HOLDER MAY SELL BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR DURING THE HOURS SET IN COUNTY LAW FOR ~~RURAL~~ SPECIAL EVENT VENUES.

(F) A LICENSE HOLDER MAY PURCHASE BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR ONLY FROM A LICENSED WHOLESALER.

(G) A LICENSE HOLDER IS SUBJECT TO THE ALCOHOL AWARENESS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS UNDER § 4–505 OF THIS ARTICLE AND § 15–1902 OF THIS TITLE.

(H) THE FEE FOR A ~~RURAL~~ SPECIAL EVENT VENUE LICENSE IS:

- (1) \$250 FOR NOT MORE THAN 10 EVENTS PER YEAR;
- (2) \$500 FOR NOT MORE THAN 20 EVENTS PER YEAR;
- (3) \$750 FOR NOT MORE THAN 30 EVENTS PER YEAR; AND
- (4) \$1,000 FOR NOT MORE THAN 40 EVENTS PER YEAR.

15–1308.

(a) Instead of issuing individual event licenses, the Board may issue a multiple event license for a particular class of license.

(b) The number of days for which a multiple event license may be used by a single applicant may not exceed 40 per calendar year.

(c) (1) A multiple event license shall be issued:

(i) for one premises only; and

(ii) except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, to the same applicant for all events for which the license is issued.

(2) The Board may:

(i) approve in writing a substitute applicant; and

(ii) before approving a substitute applicant, hold a hearing.

(d) A server who is certified as having completed an alcohol awareness program shall be on the premises for which a multiple event license is issued when alcoholic beverages are served.

(E) (1) THE HOLDER OF A MULTIPLE EVENT LICENSE UNDER THIS SECTION MAY STORE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON THE LICENSED PREMISES BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL LICENSED EVENTS IF THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:

(I) ARE IN A SPECIALLY IDENTIFIED LOCKED AND SECURED LOCATION; AND

(II) ARE NOT SOLD OR CONSUMED EXCEPT DURING LICENSED EVENT HOURS FOR LICENSED EVENT PURPOSES.

(2) (I) THE LICENSE HOLDER SHALL KEEP COMPLETE AND ACCURATE RECORDS OF ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PURCHASED AND SOLD ON THE LICENSED PREMISES.

(II) THE RECORDS SHALL BE:

1. MAINTAINED ON THE LICENSED PREMISES FOR 2 YEARS; AND

2. AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL OF THE COMPTROLLER, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND THE BOARD.

(III) THE RECORDS SHALL INCLUDE A COMPLETED PRE- AND POST-INVENTORY OF ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL EVENT.

(3) AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL OF THE COMPTROLLER, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND THE BOARD MAY INSPECT THE PREMISES OF THE LICENSE HOLDER AS PROVIDED UNDER § 6-202 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(4) A LICENSE HOLDER WHO VIOLATES THIS SUBSECTION IS SUBJECT TO:

(I) FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE, A FINE OF \$100; AND

(II) FOR A SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$500 AND DENIAL OF FUTURE REQUESTS FOR A LICENSE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL EVENT OR A SPECIAL MULTIPLE EVENT LICENSE.

[(e)] (F) (1) The fee for a multiple event license is:

(i) \$250 for not more than 10 events per year;

(ii) \$500 for not more than 20 events per year;

(iii) \$750 for not more than 30 events per year; and

(iv) \$1,000 for not more than 40 events per year.

(2) The Board may not issue a refund if the license holder holds fewer events during the calendar year than the number of events that the license holder is entitled to hold.

~~15-1310. [15-1309.]~~

~~(a) This section applies only to:~~

~~(1) volunteer fire companies; AND~~

~~(2) A HOLDER OF A MULTIPLE EVENT LICENSE UNDER § 15-1308 OF THIS SUBTITLE OR A RURAL SPECIAL EVENT VENUE LICENSE UNDER § 15-1309 OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

~~(b) Alcoholic beverages may be stored on the licensed premises between individual licensed events if the alcoholic beverages:~~

~~(1) are in a specially identified locked and secured location; and~~

~~(2) are not sold or consumed except during licensed event hours for licensed event purposes.~~

~~(c) (1) A license holder shall keep complete and accurate records of all alcoholic beverages purchased and sold on the licensed premises.~~

~~(2) The records shall be:~~

~~(i) maintained on the licensed premises for 2 years; and~~

~~(ii) available for inspection by authorized personnel of the Comptroller, the Executive Director, and the Board.~~

~~(3) The records shall include a completed pre and post inventory of all alcoholic beverages for each individual event.~~

~~(d) Authorized personnel of the Comptroller, the Executive Director, and the Board may inspect the premises of a license holder as provided under § 6-202 of this article.~~

~~(e) A license holder who violates this section is subject to:~~

~~(1) for the first offense, a fine of \$100; and~~

~~(2) for a subsequent offense, a fine not exceeding \$500 and denial of future requests for a license for an individual event or a special multiple event license.~~

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

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.