

HOUSE BILL 574

A2

5lr1232

By: **St. Mary's 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 **St. Mary's County – Alcoholic Beverages Licenses – Multiple Licensing Plans**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for St. Mary's County
4 to issue not more than a certain number of Class B beer, wine, and liquor restaurant
5 licenses to a person under certain circumstances; prohibiting a person from having
6 a direct or indirect interest in more than a certain number of Class B beer, wine, and
7 liquor restaurant licenses; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in
8 St. Mary's County.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
11 Section 28–102
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2024 Replacement Volume)

14 BY adding to
15 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
16 Section 28–1606
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2024 Replacement Volume)

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

21 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis**

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.



28-102.

This title applies only in St. Mary's County.

28-1606.

(A) (1) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE BOARD MAY ISSUE TO AN INDIVIDUAL OR FOR THE USE OF A PERSON NOT MORE THAN THREE CLASS B BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR RESTAURANT LICENSES.

(2) THE LICENSES SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION ARE FOR SEPARATE PREMISES.

(3) ONLY ONE OF THE LICENSES SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF ALCOHOL FOR OFF-PREMISES CONSUMPTION.

(B) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A PERSON MAY NOT HAVE A DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST IN MORE THAN THREE CLASS B BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR RESTAURANT LICENSES.

(2) A PERSON MAY NOT HAVE A DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST IN MORE THAN ONE CLASS B BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR RESTAURANT LICENSE ~~IF THE LICENSE THAT~~ AUTHORIZES THE SALE OF ALCOHOL FOR OFF-PREMISES CONSUMPTION.

(C) AN INDIRECT INTEREST IS PRESUMED TO EXIST BETWEEN ANY COMBINATION OF PERSONS IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS EXIST BETWEEN THEM:

(1) A COMMON PARENT COMPANY;

(2) A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT;

(3) A LICENSING AGREEMENT;

(4) A CONCESSION AGREEMENT;

(5) DUAL MEMBERSHIP IN A CHAIN OF BUSINESSES COMMONLY OWNED AND OPERATED;

(6) (I) A SHARING OF DIRECTORS, STOCKHOLDERS, PARTNERS, OR MEMBERS; OR

1 **(II) A SHARING OF DIRECTORS, STOCKHOLDERS, PARTNERS, OR**
2 **MEMBERS OF PARENTS OR SUBSIDIARIES;**

3 **(7) COMMON DIRECT OR INDIRECT SHARING OF PROFIT FROM THE**
4 **SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; OR**

5 **(8) A SHARING OF A COMMON TRADE NAME, TRADEMARK, LOGO, OR**
6 **THEME OR MODE OF OPERATION IDENTIFIABLE BY THE PUBLIC.**

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
8 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.