

SENATE BILL 972

A2

5lr3244

By: **Senator Lam**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 25, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Anne Arundel County – Board of License Commissioners – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the membership of the Board of License Commissioners for
4 Anne Arundel County; altering the eligibility requirements for Board membership;
5 requiring the Board to adopt and publish a certain ethics policy; requiring the Board
6 to include an option to provide certain information on an application for the issuance
7 of a license or a license renewal; prohibiting the Board from using certain
8 information as a factor in determining whether to issue or renew a license; requiring
9 the Board to submit a certain report regarding enforcement actions to the General
10 Assembly each year; altering the penalties that the Board may impose for certain
11 violations; and generally relating to the Board of License Commissioners for Anne
12 Arundel County.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
15 Section 11–102
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2024 Replacement Volume)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
20 Section 11–202(a) and (b) and 11–2802
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 adding to
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 11–210, 11–1409, and 11–2607
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

11–102.

This title applies only in Anne Arundel County.

11–202.

(a) (1) The Governor shall appoint ~~[three]~~ **FIVE** members to the Board.

(2) The appointments shall be made[:

(i) if the Senate is in session,] with the advice and consent of the
Senate[; or

(ii) if the Senate is not in session, by the Governor alone].

(b) (1) Each member of the Board shall be:

(i) a resident and voter of the county; ~~and~~

(ii) SELECTED FROM A LIST OF INDIVIDUALS RECOMMENDED
BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY HOUSE OR SENATE
DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND

(III) an individual of high character and integrity and of recognized
business capacity.

(2) No more than ~~two~~ **THREE** members of the Board may belong to the
same political party.

**(3) NO MORE THAN TWO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD MAY BE
RESIDENTS OF THE SAME STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT.**

**(4) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT BE APPOINTED TO THE BOARD IF THE
INDIVIDUAL SERVED AS THE CHIEF INSPECTOR WITHIN ~~5 YEARS~~ 1 YEAR OF THE
DATE THAT THE VACANCY IS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED.**

1 11-210.

2 THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT AND PUBLISH A WRITTEN POLICY RELATED TO
3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND THE RECUSAL OF BOARD MEMBERS FROM BOARD
4 MATTERS.

5 11-1409.

6 (A) THE BOARD SHALL:

7 ~~(1) INCLUDE ON ALL APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A~~
8 ~~LICENSE OR A LICENSE RENEWAL AN OPTION FOR THE APPLICANT TO PROVIDE THE~~
9 ~~APPLICANT'S RACE AND ETHNICITY INFORMATION; AND~~

10 ~~(2) ENCOURAGE AN APPLICANT TO PROVIDE RACE AND ETHNICITY~~
11 ~~INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION.~~

12 (B) THE BOARD MAY NOT USE ANY RACE OR ETHNICITY INFORMATION
13 INCLUDED ON AN APPLICATION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A LICENSE OR LICENSE
14 RENEWAL AS A FACTOR IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO ISSUE OR RENEW THE
15 LICENSE.

16 11-2607.

17 ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15 EACH YEAR, THE BOARD SHALL REPORT TO THE
18 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT
19 ARTICLE, ON THE RACIAL BREAKDOWN OF THE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN BY
20 THE BOARD IN THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR.

21 11-2802.

22 (a) [The Board may impose a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or suspend a license or
23 both for] FOR a violation that is cause for license suspension under the alcoholic beverage
24 laws affecting the county, THE BOARD MAY:

25 (1) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, IMPOSE A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000;

26 (2) FOR A SECOND OFFENSE IN THE SAME 24-MONTH PERIOD, IMPOSE
27 A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$2,000 OR SUSPEND THE LICENSE OR BOTH; AND

28 (3) FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE IN THE SAME 24-MONTH
29 PERIOD, IMPOSE A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$2,500 OR SUSPEND THE LICENSE OR
30 BOTH.

1 (b) A fine or suspension under subsection (a) of this section is in addition to any
2 term or condition that the Board may impose as a result of the violation.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
4 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.