

Chapter 800

(House Bill 567)

AN ACT concerning

Dorchester County – Alcoholic Beverages – Arts Beer and Wine License

FOR the purpose of establishing in Dorchester County an arts beer and wine license that authorizes the holder to sell or serve beer and wine for on–premises consumption; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Dorchester County to issue the license to a nonprofit or for–profit retail business that engages in the display and sale of original artwork in a certain arts and entertainment district; authorizing the Board to issue the license to an establishment that is within a certain distance of a place of worship or school with the written consent of the place of worship or school; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages in Dorchester County.

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

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

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 AN ARTS BEER AND WINE LICENSE.

(B) (1) THE BOARD MAY ISSUE THE LICENSE TO A NONPROFIT OR FOR-PROFIT RETAIL BUSINESS, INCLUDING AN ART CENTER, AN ART GALLERY, A MUSEUM, OR A SIMILAR BUSINESS THAT IS PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO ART THAT EXPRESSES MATTERS OF SERIOUS LITERARY, ARTISTIC, SCIENTIFIC, OR POLITICAL VALUE, THAT:

(I) ENGAGES IN THE DISPLAY AND SALE OF ORIGINAL ARTWORK; AND

(II) IS LOCATED IN AN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

(2) THE BOARD MAY NOT ISSUE THE LICENSE TO A BUSINESS THAT DISPLAYS AND SELLS COMMERCIALY PREPARED OR MASS-PRODUCED ARTISTIC PRODUCTS.

(3) THE LICENSE HOLDER MAY SELL OR SERVE BEER AND WINE:

(I) AT RETAIL FOR ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION WHEN SNACKS ARE SERVED; AND

(II) ON MONDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS BUT NOT EARLIER THAN 10 A.M. AND NOT LATER THAN 10 P.M.

(4) THE LICENSE MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE LOCATION FOR WHICH THE LICENSE WAS ORIGINALLY ISSUED TO ANOTHER LOCATION.

(C) THE ANNUAL LICENSE FEE IS \$250.

(D) 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) AN ARTS BEER AND WINE 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.

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.