

HOUSE BILL 656

A2

5lr1294
CF 5lr2719

By: **Wicomico County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2025

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wicomico County – Alcoholic Beverages Licenses – Athletic and Event Facility**
3 **License**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Wicomico County
5 to issue a Class B (athletic and event facility) beer, wine, and liquor license to a
6 certain facility under certain circumstances; authorizing the license holder to sell
7 beer, wine, and liquor for on–premises consumption under certain circumstances;
8 prohibiting the Board from issuing the license before certain regulations take effect;
9 and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Wicomico County.

10 BY renumbering

11 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
12 Section 32–1001 through 32–1001.3
13 to be Section 32–1001.1 through 32–1001.4, respectively
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2024 Replacement Volume)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

17 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
18 Section 32–102
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2024 Replacement Volume)

21 BY adding to

22 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
23 Section 32–1001
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2024 Replacement Volume)

26 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
27 That Section(s) 32–1001 through 32–1001.3 of Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 32–1001.1 through 32–1001.4, respectively.

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

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

32–102.

This title applies only in Wicomico County.

32–1001.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “FACILITY” MEANS:

(1) AN ATHLETIC FACILITY;

(2) AN AUDITORIUM;

(3) A BANQUET HALL; OR

(4) A CONFERENCE CENTER.

(B) THERE IS A CLASS B (ATHLETIC AND EVENT FACILITY) BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE.

(C) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, THE BOARD MAY ISSUE THE LICENSE FOR USE AT A FACILITY THAT HAS:

(1) A KITCHEN FOR THE PREPARATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FOOD FOR SERVICE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SALE OF ALCOHOL; AND

(2) A CAPACITY OF AT LEAST 500 PEOPLE.

(D) THE LICENSE AUTHORIZES THE LICENSE HOLDER TO SELL BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR, FROM ONE OR MORE OUTLETS LOCATED WITHIN THE FACILITY, FOR ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION.

(E) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS:

(1) PROHIBITING THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL BY SPECTATORS AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN YOUTH EVENTS, INCLUDING YOUTH ATHLETIC EVENTS; AND

(2) ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR:

(I) THE DISPENSING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES;

**(II) THE NUMBER OF OUTLETS AUTHORIZED TO DISPENSE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITHIN A FACILITY;**

**(III) THE MINIMUM CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN THE LICENSED
PREMISES;**

(IV) THE HOURS AND DAYS OF SALE; AND

(V) THE ANNUAL LICENSE FEE.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Board of License Commissioners for Wicomico County may not issue a Class B (athletic and event facility) beer, wine, and liquor license under § 32–1001 of the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article, as enacted by Section 2 of this Act, until the regulations the Board adopts under § 32–1001(e) of the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article, as enacted by Section 2 of this Act, take effect.

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