

Chapter 838

(Senate Bill 888)

AN ACT concerning

Anne Arundel County – Alcoholic Beverages – License and Permit Distance Requirements

FOR the purpose of authorizing, rather than prohibiting, the Board of Liquor Commissioners for Anne Arundel County to issue a certain dancing permit to the holder of a Class H beer and wine (on-sale) license or Class H beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license for a licensed premises located within a certain distance of a certain school; and authorizing, rather than prohibiting, the Board from issuing a new Class B beer and wine (on-sale) license or Class B beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license if the establishment is located within a certain distance of a certain school; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Anne Arundel County.

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

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 11–1102(d) and 11–1603
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.

11–1102.

- (d) (1) There is a dancing permit.
- (2) The Board may issue the permit to a holder of:
 - (i) a Class B license;

BLX license;

- (ii) except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, a Class
- (iii) a Class C license;
- (iv) a Class D license; or
- (v) except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, a Class H license.

(3) The permit authorizes the holder to provide music, dancing, and other legal forms of entertainment.

(4) **(I)** The Board may not issue the permit to a holder of a Class BLX license or a Class H license if the premises for which the Class BLX license or Class H license is issued is within 1,000 feet in a straight line from entry to entry from a place of worship or school.

(II) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE BOARD MAY ISSUE THE PERMIT TO THE HOLDER OF A CLASS H LICENSE IF THE LICENSED PREMISES IS LOCATED WITHIN 1,000 FEET IN A STRAIGHT LINE FROM ENTRY TO ENTRY FROM A SCHOOL LOCATED AT THE ANNAPOLIS MALL.

(5) The annual permit fees are:

- (i) \$200 for a holder of a beer and wine license;
- (ii) \$400 for a holder of a beer, wine, and liquor license; and
- (iii) no charge for a holder of a Class C license.

11–1603.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Board may not issue a new license for an establishment whose entry is within 1,000 feet in a straight line from the entry of a place of worship or school.

(b) The prohibition against issuing a license in subsection (a) of this section does not apply to:

(1) the transfer of a license from the current license holder to a new license holder, unless the transfer would allow the sale of alcoholic beverages by another establishment within the 1,000-foot restriction;

(2) a nonprofit club or nonprofit organization;

(3) a restaurant that held a license at the time the restaurant was destroyed by fire, flood, windstorm, or other act of God, if a new place of worship or school has not been constructed within the 1,000-foot restriction;

(4) the issuance of a Class H beer and wine (on-sale) license or beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license;

(5) the issuance of a motel-restaurant complex or hotel-restaurant complex beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license;

(6) the issuance of a Class BLX (deluxe restaurant) (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license; [or]

(7) the issuance of a gift basket permit; **OR**

(8) THE ISSUANCE OF A CLASS B BEER AND WINE (ON-SALE) LICENSE OR CLASS B BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR (ON-SALE) LICENSE FOR AN ESTABLISHMENT LOCATED WITHIN 1,000 FEET OF A SCHOOL LOCATED AT THE ANNAPOLIS MALL.

(c) For an establishment that is within 1,000 feet of the grounds of a place of worship or school, the Board:

(1) may renew a license;

(2) may extend the area of the licensed premises; but

(3) may not change the operational classification of an existing license, unless the change is from a Class B, Class C, or Class D license to a Class H license.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.