

Chapter 840

(House Bill 574)

AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

BY adding to
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 28–1606
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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.