

## Chapter 186

**(Senate Bill 634)**

AN ACT concerning

**Washington County – Liquor Tasting License**

FOR the purpose of authorizing a special liquor tasting license to be issued in Washington County; authorizing the license to be issued only to a holder of Class A (off-sale) beer, wine and liquor license; establishing the annual license fee; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Washington County to issue the license for certain purposes; prohibiting the holder of the license from charging for the liquor tasting or sampling; providing for the number of days in a licensing year that the license is effective; requiring the licensee to notify the Board in writing a certain number of days in advance of a scheduled tasting date; prohibiting a licensee from holding more than one liquor, beer, or wine tasting event on the same day; limiting the number of bottles that may be open at any one time during the tasting event; prohibiting the contents of certain bottles from being mixed; requiring certain bottles to be destroyed; limiting the number of servings for each customer; requiring the Board to adopt regulations; defining a certain term; and generally relating to a special liquor tasting license in Washington County.

BY adding to

Article 2B – Alcoholic Beverages

Section 8-9A-02

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2011 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article 2B – Alcoholic Beverages****8-9A-02.**

**(A) IN THIS SECTION, “BOARD” MEANS THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY.**

**(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.**

**(C) AN APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL LIQUOR TASTING LICENSE (LTL) SHALL BE MADE ON A FORM THAT THE BOARD PROVIDES.**

**(D) A SPECIAL LIQUOR TASTING LICENSE (LTL) MAY BE ISSUED ONLY TO A HOLDER OF A CLASS A (OFF-SALE) BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR LICENSE.**

**(E) THE ANNUAL LICENSE FEE IS \$300 FOR 12 TASTINGS AND \$500 FOR 24 TASTINGS.**

**(F) THE BOARD MAY ISSUE A SPECIAL LIQUOR TASTING LICENSE (LTL) TO PERMIT ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR FOR TASTING OR SAMPLING PURPOSES ONLY.**

**(G) THE HOLDER OF A SPECIAL LIQUOR TASTING LICENSE MAY NOT CHARGE FOR THE LIQUOR TASTING OR SAMPLING.**

**(H) (1) THE LICENSE IS EFFECTIVE FOR USE NO MORE THAN 12 DAYS IN A LICENSING YEAR FOR A 12-TASTING LICENSE AND 24 DAYS IN A LICENSING YEAR FOR A 24-TASTING LICENSE.**

**(2) THE LICENSEE SHALL NOTIFY THE BOARD IN WRITING AT LEAST 10 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF ANY SCHEDULED TASTING DATE.**

**(3) A LICENSEE MAY NOT HOLD MORE THAN ONE LIQUOR, BEER, OR WINE TASTING EVENT ON THE SAME DAY.**

**(I) (1) A MAXIMUM OF FOUR BOTTLES MAY BE OPEN AT ANY ONE TIME AT A LIQUOR TASTING EVENT.**

**(2) THE CONTENTS OF EACH BOTTLE MAY NOT BE MIXED WITH ANY OTHER BOTTLE, AND ALL BOTTLES SHALL BE DESTROYED ONCE THEY ARE EMPTY.**

**(J) SERVINGS ARE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN ONE-HALF OUNCE OF ANY ONE LIQUOR TO ANY ONE CUSTOMER AND ONLY FOUR SAMPLES PER CUSTOMER.**

**(K) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

**Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.**