

# SENATE BILL 281

A1

7lr0988

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By: **Senators Ready, Bates, and Cassilly**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2017

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2017

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Alcoholic Beverages – Definition of Beer – Hard Cider**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the alcoholic content of hard cider that is part of the definition  
4 of beer used in the Alcoholic Beverages Article; and generally relating to the  
5 definition of beer under the Alcoholic Beverages Article.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article – Alcoholic Beverages  
8 Section 1–101(a)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2016 Volume and 2016 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Alcoholic Beverages  
13 Section 1–101(c)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2016 Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages**

19 1–101.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated.

2 (c) (1) “Beer” means a brewed alcoholic beverage.

3 (2) “Beer” includes:

4 (i) ale;

5 (ii) porter;

6 (iii) stout;

7 (iv) hard cider that:

8 1. is derived primarily from apples, apple concentrate and  
9 water, pears, or pear concentrate and water; and

10 2. contains no other fruit product but contains at least  
11 one-half of 1% and less than [7%] **8.5%** of alcohol by volume; and

12 (v) an alcoholic beverage that contains:

13 1. 6% or less alcohol by volume, derived primarily from the  
14 fermentation of grain, with not more than 49% of the alcoholic beverage’s overall alcohol  
15 content by volume obtained from flavors and other added nonbeverage ingredients  
16 containing alcohol; or

17 2. more than 6% alcohol by volume, derived primarily from  
18 the fermentation of grain, with not more than 1.5% of the alcoholic beverage’s overall  
19 alcohol content by volume obtained from flavors and other added nonbeverage ingredients  
20 containing alcohol.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
22 1, 2017.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.