

HOUSE BILL 171

A2

8lr0788

By: **Montgomery County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2018

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Montgomery County – Beer and Wine Licenses – Shochu and Soju**

3 **MC 20–18**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing that a retail beer and wine license issued in Montgomery
5 County authorizes the sale of shochu and soju under certain terms and conditions;
6 defining “shochu” and “soju”; and generally relating to the authority to sell shochu
7 and soju under a retail beer and wine license in Montgomery County.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Alcoholic Beverages
10 Section 25–102
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2016 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Alcoholic Beverages
15 Section 25–801
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2016 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Alcoholic Beverages
20 Section 25–801
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2016 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

25 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 25-102.

2 This title applies only in Montgomery County.

3 **25-801.**

4 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
5 INDICATED.

6 (B) "SHOCHU" MEANS A JAPANESE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE THAT CONTAINS
7 NOT MORE THAN 24% OF ALCOHOL BY VOLUME AND IS DERIVED FROM
8 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

9 (C) "SOJU" MEANS A KOREAN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE THAT CONTAINS NOT
10 MORE THAN 24% OF ALCOHOL BY VOLUME AND IS DERIVED FROM AGRICULTURAL
11 PRODUCTS.

12 [25-801.] **25-801.1.**

13 (A) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B)(2) OF THIS SECTION,
14 THE wine that may be sold under a beer and wine license may not contain more than 22%
15 of alcohol by volume, including naturally fermented or fortified wine.

16 (B) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A LICENSE
17 ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE THAT AUTHORIZES THE SALE OF WINE ALSO
18 AUTHORIZES THE SALE OF SHOCHU OR SOJU UNDER THE SAME TERMS AND
19 CONDITIONS THAT APPLY TO THE SALE OF WINE.

20 (2) THE LIMIT ON ALCOHOL BY VOLUME FOR THE SALE OF WINE
21 ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE
22 SALE OF SHOCHU OR SOJU.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
24 1, 2018.