

# HOUSE BILL 784

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By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2023

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor**  
3 **Licenses, Entertainment Permits, Inspections, and Penalties**

4 **PG 302–23**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing the holder of a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license in  
6 Prince George's County to serve beer, wine, and liquor by the glass or by the bottle  
7 for on–premises consumption; authorizing the holder of a certain entertainment  
8 permit to contract with one or more promoters to publicize, sell tickets for, organize,  
9 operate, produce, or stage an event, which may include patron dancing and  
10 entertainment; applying certain provisions relating to a certain entertainment  
11 permit to contracted promoters; authorizing certain inspections of certain licensed  
12 premises by or on behalf of the Board of License Commissioners for Prince George's  
13 County; limiting the number of certain inspections; requiring a certain inspector to  
14 provide a report of an inspection to the license holder and the Board within a certain  
15 time period; requiring the Board each year to publish a list containing the number  
16 of inspections conducted of each licensed premises in the previous calendar year;  
17 requiring the Board to publish and maintain a list of penalties for certain violations  
18 of alcoholic beverages laws; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages in Prince  
19 George's County.

20 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
21 Article – Alcoholic Beverages  
22 Section 26–102 and 26–902(a)  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2016 Volume and 2022 Supplement)

25 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
26 Article – Alcoholic Beverages  
27 Section 26–902(c) and 26–1103  
28 Annotated Code of Maryland

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2016 Volume and 2022 Supplement)

2 BY adding to  
3 Article – Alcoholic Beverages  
4 Section 26–2606 and 26–2803  
5 Annotated Code of Maryland  
6 (2016 Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

9 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages**

10 26–102.

11 This title applies only in Prince George’s County.

12 26–902.

13 (a) There is a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license.

14 (c) (1) The license authorizes the license holder, at a hotel or restaurant at  
15 retail at the place described in the license, to sell beer, wine, and liquor:

16 (i) **BY THE GLASS OR BY THE BOTTLE** for on–premises  
17 consumption; and

18 (ii) subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, for off–premises  
19 consumption only:

20 1. from the main bar; and

21 2. in the main portion of the dining room facilities.

22 (2) The off–sale privilege set out in paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection is  
23 limited to those license holders who had the privilege on July 1, 1970.

24 26–1103.

25 (a) This section does not apply to a license holder that seeks to provide  
26 entertainment if:

27 (1) the license of the license holder is issued under § 26–1003, § 26–1006, §  
28 26–1008, § 26–1009, § 26–1010, § 26–1011, § 26–1014, § 26–1015, § 26–1016, § 26–1018.1,  
29 or § 26–1616(h) of this title; or

30 (2) the license is a veterans or fraternal Class C license and the license

1 holder provides entertainment that:

2 (i) is under the direct supervision of the license holder;

3 (ii) is for adults, children, and families of the organization or the  
4 public; and

5 (iii) when offered, ends not later than midnight.

6 (b) There is an entertainment permit.

7 (c) The Board may issue the permit to a holder of a Class B (on-sale) license in  
8 accordance with this section.

9 (d) (1) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the permit  
10 authorizes the permit holder to:

11 1. impose a cover charge, offer facilities for patron dancing,  
12 and provide entertainment; **OR**

13 2. **CONTRACT WITH ONE OR MORE PROMOTERS TO**  
14 **PUBLICIZE, SELL TICKETS FOR, ORGANIZE, OPERATE, PRODUCE, OR STAGE AN**  
15 **EVENT, WHICH MAY INCLUDE PATRON DANCING AND ENTERTAINMENT.**

16 (ii) The permit holder shall comply, **AND ENSURE THAT ANY**  
17 **CONTRACTED PROMOTER COMPLIES**, with all requirements under county law, including  
18 zoning and use and occupancy laws.

19 (2) The Board shall determine the number of days in a week that a permit  
20 holder may exercise the privileges of the permit.

21 (3) The permit is in effect from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. the following day.

22 (e) Before being issued the permit, an applicant shall:

23 (1) submit evidence to the satisfaction of the Board that:

24 (i) the applicant holds a Class B (on-sale) license;

25 (ii) there are no unpaid taxes due from the applicant to the State,  
26 the county, or a municipal corporation; and

27 (iii) the applicant **AND ANY CONTRACTED PROMOTER** meets all  
28 other requirements for the permit; and

29 (2) (i) **IN CONSULTATION WITH ANY CONTRACTED PROMOTER,**

1 develop a security plan to prevent the premises for which the permit is sought from posing  
2 a threat to the peace and safety of the surrounding area; and

3 (ii) submit the plan for review to the Board and the Chief of the  
4 County Police Department.

5 (f) (1) The Chief of the County Police Department may submit comments to  
6 the Board on the adequacy of the security plan within 30 days after receipt of the security  
7 plan.

8 (2) The Board shall consider the comments, if any, of the Chief of the  
9 County Police Department and subsequently issue the permit, refuse to issue the permit,  
10 or condition the issuance of the permit on changes to the security plan.

11 (3) If the Board issues the permit with a security plan that the Chief of the  
12 County Police Department does not support, the Board shall specify in writing to the Chief  
13 of the County Police Department the reasons why the Board has determined that the  
14 security plan is adequate.

15 (g) (1) Before issuing the permit, the Board shall hold a public hearing in  
16 accordance with the requirements for a public hearing on an application for a license under  
17 § 26–1511 of this title.

18 (2) At the public hearing, the Board shall give the applicant, supporters of  
19 the applicant, and opponents of the applicant an opportunity to be heard.

20 (3) In making its determination whether to approve the application and  
21 issue the permit, the Board shall consider whether:

22 (i) approval and issuance of the permit is necessary for the  
23 accommodation of the public;

24 (ii) the applicant is a fit person to receive the permit;

25 (iii) the applicant has made a material false statement in the  
26 application;

27 (iv) the applicant has committed any fraudulent act in connection  
28 with the application;

29 (v) the operation of the business, if the permit is issued, will unduly  
30 disturb the peace of the residents of the neighborhood where the place of business is located  
31 or to be located; and

32 (vi) there are any other reasons that justify the disapproval of the  
33 application or the refusal to issue the permit.

1 (4) The Board shall hold a similar public hearing on receipt of a petition to:

2 (i) revoke the permit; or

3 (ii) protest the renewal of the permit.

4 (h) The permit holder **AND ANY CONTRACTED PROMOTER:**

5 (1) shall implement and follow the approved security plan described under  
6 subsection (e)(2) of this section at all times when the permit holder exercises the privileges  
7 of the permit;

8 (2) when the privileges authorized by the permit are being exercised, may  
9 not allow an individual who is under the age of 21 years on the premises for which the  
10 permit is issued unless the individual is employed by or is an immediate family member of  
11 the permit holder; and

12 (3) may employ sworn security personnel as part of the security plan  
13 described under subsection (e)(2) of this section if the sworn security personnel have full  
14 police powers in the jurisdiction where the premises of the permit holder is located.

15 (i) The Board at any time may prohibit, condition, or restrict the type of  
16 entertainment offered by a permit holder, including lewd, exotic, loud, or raucous  
17 entertainment, if after a hearing the Board determines that the entertainment:

18 (1) adversely impacts or unduly disturbs the community; and

19 (2) is not conducive to the peace, health, welfare, or safety of the residents  
20 of the county.

21 (j) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Board may immediately  
22 suspend the permit if the Board reasonably believes that the permit holder **OR A**  
23 **CONTRACTED PROMOTER:**

24 (i) violated this section; or

25 (ii) is not in compliance with a county zoning property standard or  
26 use and occupancy requirement.

27 (2) If the Board immediately suspends a permit, the Board shall:

28 (i) give the permit holder notice of the suspension and a hearing on  
29 the suspension at which the permit holder may be heard and present evidence; and

30 (ii) hold the hearing within 30 days after the suspension is imposed.

31 (k) (1) At the hearing, the Board shall determine:

1 (i) whether the permit holder violated this section or other law; and

2 (ii) if a violation occurred, what penalty to impose among those listed  
3 in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection.

4 (2) Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, if the Board finds that a  
5 person has violated this section or any other law, the Board:

6 (i) may revoke or continue the suspension of the permit; and

7 (ii) shall impose on the person a penalty of:

8 1. for a first offense, at least \$1,000 but not more than  
9 \$12,500; and

10 2. for each subsequent offense, at least \$5,000.

11 (3) The Board:

12 (i) shall revoke the permit of a person who the Board determines  
13 violated this section or any other law twice in 24 months; and

14 (ii) may not consider an application from the person for a new permit  
15 or an application for a new permit for the premises that was the subject of the revocation  
16 until at least 12 months after the order of revocation is issued.

17 (4) If the Board determines that the permit holder did not violate this  
18 section, the Board shall immediately reinstate the permit.

19 (1) (1) The circuit court may issue a temporary restraining order to  
20 immediately close to the public the entire operation of the premises if the county establishes  
21 that:

22 (i) the security plan described under subsection (e)(2) of this section  
23 has not been implemented; and

24 (ii) the public health, safety, or welfare requires emergency action.

25 (2) On issuance of a temporary restraining order under paragraph (1) of  
26 this subsection, the county shall give the permit holder written notice of and reasons for  
27 the closure.

28 (3) The permit holder promptly shall be given an opportunity for a hearing  
29 in circuit court on the granting of the temporary restraining order in accordance with Title  
30 15, Chapter 500 of the Maryland Rules.

1 (m) The Board shall adopt regulations to carry out this section.

2 (n) The annual fee for the permit is \$1,500, which is in addition to the annual fee  
3 for the Class B license.

4 **26-2606.**

5 (A) (1) **THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO INSPECTIONS PERFORMED BY OR**  
6 **ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD.**

7 (2) **UNLESS THE INSPECTION IS PERFORMED ON BEHALF OF THE**  
8 **BOARD AND DOES NOT RELATE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY, THIS SECTION DOES NOT**  
9 **APPLY TO INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED BY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING**  
10 **PERSONS:**

11 (I) **A POLICE DEPARTMENT;**

12 (II) **A FIRE DEPARTMENT OR FIRE INSPECTOR; OR**

13 (III) **A HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

14 (B) **AN INSPECTION OF A LICENSED PREMISES MAY BE CONDUCTED WITH**  
15 **OR WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE IN ORDER TO:**

16 (1) **PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE BOARD IN ANY MATTER**  
17 **PERTAINING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES;**

18 (2) **CONDUCT BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS AND CRIMINAL**  
19 **HISTORY RECORDS CHECKS ON ALL LICENSE APPLICANTS;**

20 (3) **MAKE ROUTINE INSPECTIONS OF LICENSED ESTABLISHMENTS IN**  
21 **THE COUNTY TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPROPRIATE**  
22 **STATE LAWS, LOCAL LAWS, RESTRICTIONS, AND BOARD RULES AND REGULATIONS;**

23 (4) **COORDINATE INFORMATION WITH OTHER APPROPRIATE**  
24 **REGULATORY AGENCIES;**

25 (5) **TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON ANY WRITTEN REPORT OF**  
26 **VIOLATIONS FORWARDED BY A UNIFORMED OFFICER OF A MUNICIPAL OR COUNTY**  
27 **POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK POLICE, OR THE**  
28 **STATE POLICE;**

29 (6) **INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS MADE AGAINST A LICENSED**  
30 **ESTABLISHMENT; OR**

1           **(7) INITIATE COVERT INSPECTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS OF**  
2 **LICENSED ESTABLISHMENTS THAT MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE OR**  
3 **TO PROVE OR DISPROVE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS.**

4           **(C) EXCEPT FOR AN INSPECTION CONDUCTED IN RESPONSE TO A**  
5 **COMPLAINT, THE BOARD MAY NOT CONDUCT AN INSPECTION OF A LICENSED**  
6 **PREMISES MORE THAN TWO TIMES IN A CALENDAR MONTH WITHOUT THE PRIOR**  
7 **CONSENT OF THE LICENSE HOLDER.**

8           **(D) EXCEPT FOR INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
9 **SUBSECTION (B)(7) OF THIS SECTION, WITHIN 2 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER AN**  
10 **INSPECTION UNDER THIS SECTION, THE INSPECTOR SHALL PROVIDE TO THE**  
11 **LICENSE HOLDER AND THE BOARD A REPORT OF THE INSPECTION.**

12           **(E) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 EACH YEAR, THE BOARD SHALL PUBLISH**  
13 **ON THE BOARD'S WEBSITE A LIST OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS**  
14 **CONDUCTED OF EACH LICENSED PREMISES BY THE BOARD IN THE PRIOR CALENDAR**  
15 **YEAR.**

16 **26-2803.**

17           **THE BOARD SHALL PUBLISH AND MAINTAIN ON ITS WEBSITE A LIST OF**  
18 **PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS TITLE.**

19           **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**  
20 **1, 2023.**