

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 999
Rules

(Senator M. Washington)

Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages - Distance From Place of Worship
Restriction - Exception

This bill authorizes the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners to issue a beer, wine, and liquor license to an establishment within 300 feet of a place of worship or school if (1) the board determines that the establishment is located in the Towson area; (2) the establishment is located in an office building that is at least 100,000 square feet in size; (3) the establishment has a zoning classification of BM-D.T. by the county government; (4) the place of worship consents in writing to the issuance of the license; and (5) the license applies to a restaurant, market or another similar establishment and the license is not a Class A license. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: This bill does not materially affect Baltimore County finances or operations.
Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, in Baltimore County, the board may not issue an alcoholic beverages license for an establishment that is within 300 feet of a place of worship or school. The distance from the establishment to the place of worship or school must be measured from the nearest point of the establishment to the nearest point of the building of the place of worship or school.

The prohibition does not apply to (1) the renewal or transfer of a license if, after the license was issued, a place of worship or school was built within 300 feet of the establishment; (2) the issuance of a temporary license; (3) a transfer that moves the licensed premises within the same building; (4) a transfer of ownership; (5) the renewal of a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license or a seven-day Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license, if the establishment has a seating capacity of more than 50 and is within a town center; or (6) the transfer, conversion, and issuance of specified licenses issued by December 31, 2016.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 987 (Delegate Mangione, *et al.*) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Baltimore County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2025
js/tso

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