

HARFORD COUNTY (MD) LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD

PROPOSED LEGISLATION – 2025

AMENDMENT OF TITLE 22. SUBTITLE 15. ISSUANCE OR DENIAL OF LICENSES

Purpose: This legislation is intended to amend the ABC Article to allow the Harford County Liquor Control Board to publish notice of applications, notice of decisions, and notice of public hearings for revisions of its Rules and Regulations online or in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
DIVISION II. PROVISIONS AFFECTING INDIVIDUAL JURISDICTIONS
TITLE 22. HARFORD COUNTY
SUBTITLE 15. ISSUANCE OR DENIAL OF LICENSES
AND
SUBTITLE 2. BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**

§ 22-1505. Notice of application; hearing notice; publication of decision

Publication of notice of application

(a) Before holding a hearing for an application for a license, the Board shall publish notice of the application two times in 2 successive weeks:

(1) in one newspaper of general circulation published in the county~~[-and]~~.

(2) ~~[on the Board's Web site.]~~ **THE BOARD MAY FULFILL THE NOTICE REQUIREMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION BY POSTING ONLINE NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION HEARING AT LEAST 14 DAYS BEFORE THE APPLICATION HEARING DATE.**

Posting of hearing notice

(b)(1) For a hearing for an application for a new license or an upgrade to an existing license, the Board shall post a notice in a conspicuous location on the exterior of the location described in the application.

(2) The notice shall be on a sign that measures at least 12 by 18 inches and include:

(i) the class of license for which application is made;

(ii) the name of the applicant; and

(iii) the date, time, and location for the application hearing.

(3) The notice shall remain posted for 20 days before the hearing.

Publication of decision

(c)(1) The Board shall publish its decision on an application for a new license, an upgrade of an existing license, or a change of location of an existing license:

(i) in one newspaper of general circulation published in the county; [~~and~~] **OR**

(ii) on the Board's Web site.

(2) The decision shall state the name of the license holder, the type of license, and the location of the premises.

§ 22-209. Regulations

In general

(a) The Board may adopt regulations to carry out this article.

Advertisement required of proposed alterations to regulations

(b)(1) The Board shall hold public hearings on all proposed alterations of its regulations.

(2) The hearings shall be advertised at least 2 consecutive weeks before the scheduled public hearings:

(i)) in one newspaper of general circulation published in the county[~~;~~ and].

(ii) [~~on the Board's Web site.~~] **THE BOARD MAY FULFILL THE NOTICE REQUIREMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION BY POSTING ONLINE NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING LEAST 14 DAYS BEFORE THE HEARING DATE.**


Requested Changes: [~~Delete language in brackets~~]

ADD LANGUAGE IN BOLD

T H E

BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

Investigates and processes all alcoholic beverage license applications, investigates police reports pertaining to liquor law violations, all public complaints, and updates license information in the Alcohol Beverage License Book.

Feedback 

NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR HEARING NOTICE

Effective September 1, the Baltimore County Liquor Board will no longer publish notices for application hearings in the local newspaper regarding all new, transfer or changes of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses pursuant to House Bill 1269 with new amendments regarding Section 4-208 and 13-504 of the Annotated Code of Maryland Alcoholic Beverages Article which took effect July 1.

All notices for hearings will be posted on the Board of Liquor License Commissioners web page under "Upcoming Hearings and Results <<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/liquor-board>>."

In addition, we will continue to post a notice of hearings in a conspicuous place at the location described in the application for at least 10 days before holding a public hearing on the application.

Chapter 1037

(House Bill 1269)

AN ACT concerning

Baltimore County – Alcoholic Beverages – License Applications – ~~Online~~ Notice

FOR the purpose of altering a certain notice requirement before the Board of License Commissioners for Baltimore County may approve an application for an alcoholic beverages license; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Baltimore County to fulfill ~~a certain~~ the notice requirement by posting online ~~a completed application~~ notice of an application hearing for an alcoholic beverages license a certain number of days before the application hearing date; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Baltimore County.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 4–208 and 13–102
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2016 Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 13–1504
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2016 Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

4–208.

(a) Before a local licensing board may approve an application for a license, the local licensing board shall publish notice of the application two times in 2 successive weeks:

(1) in two newspapers of general circulation in the jurisdiction; or

(2) if only one newspaper of general circulation exists in the jurisdiction, in that newspaper.

(b) The notice shall state:

(1) the name of the applicant;

- (2) the type of license for which the application is made;
- (3) the location described in the application; and
- (4) the date, time, and place set by the local licensing board for a hearing on the application.

13-102.

This title applies only in Baltimore County.

13-1504.

(a) **(1) BEFORE THE BOARD MAY APPROVE AN APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE, THE BOARD SHALL PUBLISH NOTICE OF THE APPLICATION TWO TIMES IN 2 SUCCESSIVE WEEKS IN ONE NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN BALTIMORE COUNTY.**

(2) THE BOARD MAY FULFILL THE NOTICE REQUIREMENT UNDER § 4-208 OF THIS ARTICLE PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION BY POSTING ONLINE A COMPLETED APPLICATION NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION HEARING AT LEAST 14 DAYS BEFORE THE APPLICATION HEARING DATE.

(2) (3) In addition to the newspaper notice required under § 4-208 of this article **AND PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, OR THE ONLINE NOTICE AUTHORIZED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,** the Board shall post a suitable notice in a conspicuous place at the location described in the application for at least 10 days before holding a hearing on the application.

(b) A notice under this section shall state the class of license for which application is made and the date, time, and location set by the Board for an application hearing.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2024.