

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 121 (Delegates Szeliga and Nawrocki)
Government, Labor, and Elections

Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages - Sale for Off-Premises Consumption

This bill authorizes specified Class B or Class D alcoholic beverages license holders in Baltimore County to obtain a permit from the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners that authorizes the license holder to sell mixed drinks or cocktails in closed containers for off-premises consumption, as specified, if the board has adopted regulations authorizing the sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect Baltimore County finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Meaningful.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The board must consider the public health impacts of the sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption when considering whether to adopt regulations authorizing the sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption under the bill.

The bill applies only to a Class B or Class D license that authorizes the holder to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises and off-premises consumption at a restaurant or bar. A license holder may obtain a permit from the board to sell, if authorized under the holder's

license, mixed drinks or cocktails in sealed or closed containers for off-premises consumption if:

- the mixed drink or cocktail is purchased along with prepared food other than prepackaged snacks;
- the individual purchasing the mixed drink or cocktail is at least 21 years old and provides valid identification as proof of age; and
- each mixed drink or cocktail sold for off-premises consumption is provided in the manufacturer's original sealed container or in a container closed with a cap, cork, seal, or lid with no holes for straws or sipping and sold not later than 11:00 p.m.

The board may not charge a license holder an additional fee for selling alcoholic beverages under the bill. The board may limit the quantity of alcoholic beverages that may be sold to an individual in a single transaction.

Current Law: Generally, Class B licenses are issued to restaurants and allow the sale of alcoholic beverages with food, and Class D licenses are generally issued to bars and taverns and allow the sale of alcoholic beverages without food.

Small Business Effect: A small business restaurant or bar that is authorized to sell alcoholic beverages for on and off premises consumption under the bill is likely to experience increased revenues from the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: SB 72 (Senator Jackson) - Finance.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2026
sj/tso

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