

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1474

(Baltimore County Delegation)

Government, Labor, and Elections

Finance

Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Transfers and Conversions

This bill repeals existing provisions that prohibit the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners from transferring a Class B license that was previously converted from a Class D license transferred from another election district. The bill also repeals existing provisions that prohibit the board from transferring or converting (1) a new license issued by the board based on population increases under the board’s population-based license limits or (2) a license that has been revoked and reissued by the board. The bill requires specified Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses in existence on July 1, 2026, to be converted into Class B hotel and restaurant licenses and repeals §§ 13-1705, 13-1706, 13-1707, and 13-1709 of the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article pertaining to the transfer of these licenses. **The bill generally takes effect July 1, 2026; the repeal of §§ 13-1705, 13-1706, 13-1707, and 13-1709 of the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article takes effect October 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: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 815 of 2025 authorized the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners, from June 1, 2025, to May 31, 2028, to approve the transfer of up to

five Class B or Class D alcoholic beverages licenses in existence in an eligible transferor district on June 1, 2025, from the district to other election districts within the county.

An “eligible transferor district” means an election district in which the total number of Class B and Class D licenses, excluding exception licenses, is 10% or greater than the total number of Class B and Class D licenses allowed in an election district based on the rule of the board that limits the total number of licenses available in an election district by population. The number of licenses in existence prior to the transfer must not be greater than 25% more than the number of licenses that would otherwise exist in that election district, as specified. No more than two licenses can be transferred into any single election district.

The board must convert a Class D license that is transferred from an eligible transferor district to any other election district to a Class B license; and may not thereafter transfer the Class B license from the licensed premises or convert the license to another class of license.

The board may not transfer from a licensed premises or convert a license to another class of license: (1) a new license issued by the board based on population increases under the board’s population-based license limits; or (2) a license that has been revoked and reissued by the board.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2026
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