

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1552 (Delegate Solomon, *et al.*)
Government, Labor, and Elections

Alcoholic Beverages - Class L Beer, Wine, and Liquor License - Established

This bill establishes a Class L beer, wine, and liquor license in the State and authorizes local boards of license commissioners to issue the license to the holder of a manufacturer's license. The Class L license authorizes the license holder, for on-premises consumption, to (1) sell beer, wine, and liquor produced by the holder or another holder of a manufacturer's license and (2) provide a sample of the beer, wine, and liquor authorized under the bill at no cost. The hours of sale for a Class L license are the same as those for the underlying manufacturer's license. The annual license fee is \$250. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill is authorizing in nature. The impact on local government finances depends on the extent to which Class L licenses are established in each county. Expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Maryland's 23 counties, Baltimore City, and the City of Annapolis all have boards of license commissioners who issue and enforce retail alcoholic beverages licenses in their jurisdictions. Within each jurisdiction, the most common types of retail licenses are Class A, Class B, Class C, and Class D licenses. Each license authorizes the sale of alcoholic beverages in a different manner and may authorize the sale of alcohol for on- and off-premises consumption, as specified.

Existing Local Class L Beer, Wine, and Liquor License

Chapters 699 and 700 of 2019 established a Class L beer, wine, and liquor license in Allegany County. The Class L license in the county has the same requirements and annual fee as the Class L license under the bill, including that the license may only be issued to a holder of a manufacturer's license.

Manufacturer's Licenses – Sale of Alcoholic Beverages for On-Premises Consumption

Manufacturer's licenses are statewide licenses issued by Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission. Pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article, a majority of manufacturer's licenses allow the manufacturer to sell beer, wine, or liquor for on-premises consumption, if a Class D beer, wine, and liquor license or other permit is obtained from the local licensing board. The following manufacturer's licenses permit the sale of beer, wine, or liquor produced by the manufacturer for on-premises consumption:

- *Class 1 distillery license* – a local licensing board may grant an on-site consumption permit for use at the location of a Class 1 license that authorizes the holder to sell mixed drinks made from liquor the holder produces that is mixed with other nonalcoholic ingredients. The license holder may not use more than an aggregate of 7,750 gallons annually of liquor the holder produces for mixed drinks sold;
- *Class 9 limited distillery license* – a Class 9 license is only issued to a holder of a Class D or Class B beer, wine, or liquor license where sales for both on- and off-premises consumption are permitted for use on the licensed premises;
- *Class 4 limited winery license* – a Class 4 license may sell wine and pomace brandy produced by the licensed holder for on- and off-premises consumption;
- *Class 5 brewery license* – a Class 5 license may sell beer at location described in the license for on-premises consumption subject to local licensing board granting an on-site consumption permit and a Class D license;
- *Class 7 micro-brewery license* – a Class 7 license's on-sale privilege authorizes the license holder, each calendar year, to sell at retail for on-premises consumption up to 5,000 barrels of beer brewed under the license or if the license holders has licenses for two locations, beer that totals annually up to 5,000 barrels at each location that has been brewed at the location where it is sold; and
- *Class 8 farm brewery license* – a Class 8 license may sell beer produced by the license holder for on-premises and off-premises consumption.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2026
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Analysis by: Joanne E. Tetlow

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510