

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 998 (Delegate Clippinger)
Government, Labor, and Elections

Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – 46th Alcoholic Beverages District

This bill authorizes the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners to approve the transfer of a Class B-D-7 license from the 700 block of Washington Boulevard in the 40th alcoholic beverages district to the 200 block of South High Street in the 46th alcoholic beverages district. The bill authorizes a licensed establishment on the south side of West Pratt Street to keep and allow individuals to consume, on the licensed premises, alcoholic beverages donated by a manufacturer or wholesaler, as specified. The bill also specifies that a Class B-D-7 beer, wine, and liquor license issued for a premises in the 1600 block of Eastern Avenue must be considered unexpired until July 1, 2027, for the purpose of being renewed to the current license year and transferred to another owner at a premises in the 700 block of Aliceanna Street. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2026, and provisions related to the licensed premises on West Pratt Street terminate May 31, 2028.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

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

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A licensed establishment on the south side of the unit block of West Pratt Street may keep and allow individuals to consume on the licensed premises

alcoholic beverages donated by a manufacturer or wholesaler if: (1) the alcoholic beverages are donated and served at an event for which a nonprofit entity has rented the licensed premises; (2) the licensee has provided to the board evidence of the nonprofit status of the entity renting the licensed premises; (3) the licensee serves the alcohol donated for the event; (4) any related taxes have been remitted; and (5) the licensee only keeps and serves alcoholic beverages in conjunction with a single rental contract.

Current Law: In Baltimore City, a transfer of an alcoholic beverages license must be completed on or before 180 days after the board approves the transfer unless the board grants a hardship extension. A written request to extend the time authorized to complete the transfer due to hardship must be made in writing by a license holder or another appropriate interested party within 180 days after the board approves the transfer of a license. The board may grant the extension if it finds after a hearing that an existing hardship caused the delay in transferring the license. However, an extension may not prolong the period authorized to complete the transfer beyond 270 days after the board approves the transfer.

Generally, the board may issue a Class B-D-7 license if it determines, upon consideration of the number of beer, wine, and liquor outlets in the affected area and the outlets' days of sale, that the license is reasonably necessary for public convenience. A Class B-D-7 license authorizes the licensee to sell beer, wine, and liquor at retail at the place described in the license, for on- and off-premises consumption. The annual license fee is \$2,336.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: SB 642 (Senator Ferguson) - Finance.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2026
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Analysis by: Beatrice F. Amoateng

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