

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 718
Finance

(Senator Folden)

Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class L Permit

This bill establishes a Class L beer, wine, and liquor permit in Frederick County and authorizes the Frederick County Board of License Commissioners to issue the permit to the holder of a manufacturer's license that also holds a class DBR brewery license or a class DDS distillery permit. The permit authorizes the permit holder to sell by the glass for on-premises consumption, beer, wine, liquor, and mixed drinks from products manufactured by the permit holder or another holder of a manufacturer's license. The permit also allows for the tasting of beer, wine, or liquor, or a combination of the three, at no cost and in quantities, as specified. The hours of sale or tasting under the permit are the same as those for the required manufacturer's license, and the permit holder must comply with alcohol training requirements under State law. The board must adopt regulations to carry out the bill. The annual permit fee is \$250. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This bill is not expected to materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: Frederick County revenues increase, beginning in FY 2027, to the extent that Class L permits are issued under the bill. Frederick County can handle any additional enforcement activity with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In Frederick County, a DBR license may be issued to a holder of a Class 5 brewery license and allows the holder to sell beer brewed at the brewery for

on-premises and off-premises consumption to the extent that the holder may do so under their Class 5 brewery license.

A Class DDS permit may be issued to a holder of a Class 1 distillery license, and allows the holder to sell brandy, rum, whiskey, alcohol, and neutral spirits that are distilled, rectified, blended, and bottled at the distillery for on-premises and off-premises consumption to the extent the holder may do so under their Class 1 distillery license.

In Frederick County, the holder of a DBR brewery license or DDS permits license may generally sell or serve alcoholic beverages from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2026
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