



# The Tasting Times

*Anne Arundel County Liquor Board Quarterly Newsletter*



## *Renewals are Here!*

Most of you have completed your renewal applications. Please be aware that if your **initial** renewal application is not received by the end of day on April 1st, late fees will begin to apply. Time's a tickin'!

We are diligently working to approve the renewals. If you have not received confirmation of approval, it could be that your co-Licensee(s) has not completed their portion of the renewal or you have been sent an email requesting additional documentation or information that you may have neglected to provide initially.



### *Appointments Only*



- License pick-up and payment must be done in person, *by appointment only*. Appointments start April 7th through April 30th - Monday - Friday - 9:00am to 3:30pm. To Schedule call 410.222.1148.
- Invoices have been mailed out. If you still have a tax delinquency with the Comptroller, you will not be able to pick up your license until resolved.
- Please bring a copy of your Invoice and a check payable to Anne Arundel County Liquor Board, or credit card.
- Note: If you have received it, please bring your 2025-2026 Trader's License to your appointment. If you have not received it by the date of your appointment, an Inspector will confirm receipt at a later date.

## *Outside Service*

Spring has sprung! Interested in offering alcoholic beverages to your guests outside? Please be aware that written Liquor Board approval is required (and will require a professional survey for Office of Planning and Zoning review).

## *The Chief's Corner*

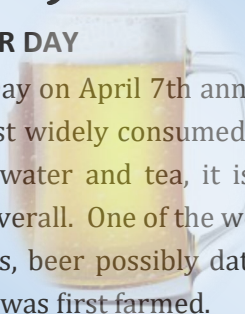
For those of you who have received permission for outdoor alcohol service, please be aware that while this will now appear on your liquor license, you will be required to keep a hard copy of the approval letter on the premises this year. We're hoping to do away with this requirement next year, but for now, please do keep a copy on the premises for your Inspector. Thank you.

*- Chief Inspector Jim Ford*

## *Did You Know?*

### **NATIONAL BEER DAY**

National Beer Day on April 7th annually, recognizes the world's most widely consumed alcoholic beverage. Following water and tea, it is the third most popular drink overall. One of the world's oldest prepared beverages, beer possibly dates back to 9500 BC when cereal was first farmed.



## Liquor Board Management Agreement Policy

It is imperative that your staff's Alcohol Awareness Certificates are kept current; especially Board Approved Managers. Please take a moment to proactively review your certificates and schedule any awareness classes a.s.a.p. as necessary.

### Chapter 3.

#### STANDARDS OF OPERATIONS

##### 3.01 OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION

(a) Every Licensee shall be the actual owner and operator of the business conducted on the licensed Premises. The identity of any Person, not a Licensee, having any financial interest in said business shall be disclosed to the Board in writing.

(b) Licensees of one (1) establishment cannot work, be employed by, or be a manager of another licensed establishment except pursuant to, Section 11-1607 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article.

(c) All Licensees shall file a Management Agreement application and receive Board confirmation for any and all Board Approved Managers at their establishment, on forms provided by the Board.

(d) Either a Licensee or at least one (1) Board Approved Manager must be on the premises during hours when alcohol is available for sale. Licensee(s) violating the terms of Sub-paragraph 3.01(d) shall be subject to:

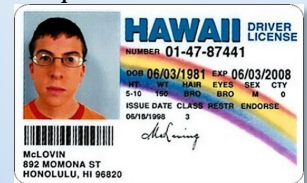
1. For the first offense, a One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) fine; and;
2. for the second offense within a five (5) year period from the date of the first offense, a Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) fine and;
3. for an offense subsequent to the second offense within a five (5) year period from the date of the second offense, a citation shall be issued to Licensee and Licensee shall appear before the Board at a hearing to determine the fine and any other action the Board sees fitting and proper to take, if any.
4. No hearing shall be required for a first or second offense under this Sub-paragraph 3.01(d) unless requested by the Licensee or otherwise required by the Board.

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Anne Arundel County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations  
(Amended as of September 10, 2024)

Rules & Regulations, Page 29, 3.01, section (c), (d), 1., 2, 3., 4.

## Sales to Underage Persons

Violations for sales to underage persons represents over 60% of all Liquor Board violations in Anne Arundel County. The Liquor Board partners with the Anne Arundel County Police S.A.V.E (Selective Alcohol Violation Enforcement) unit, who assist the Liquor Board in monitoring these violations across the county, with funding assistance from the Department of Health. Unfortunately, over the past year, there has been a spike amongst our licensees of these illegal sales. We want to make clear how serious these violations are and that there is no excuse for not asking a young person for identification when selling them alcohol. It is, perhaps, the most important obligation that comes with the privilege of possessing a liquor license in Anne Arundel County, and the Liquor Board is determined to take whatever steps necessary to see a drop in these illegal sales in the months and years to come.



## Hot Topic: Alcohol Sales at Grocery Stores

39 U.S. states allow some form of alcohol sales in grocery stores. However, specific regulations vary widely. In December 2024, Governor Wes Moore expressed a desire to allow beer and wine sales in grocery stores across Maryland. As a result, bills introduced in support in both the Senate and the House were eventually withdrawn for lack of support. Many of us may have heard the advertisements in grocery stores supporting the eventual sale of alcohol, and while the legislation fell short this year, momentum seems to be building for those who support the initiative. The Liquor Board will be watching this issue closely, with all of you.

*Please contact our office if you have any questions.*