

HOUSE BILL 481

A2
HB 921/24 – APP

5r1926
CF 5r1925

By: **Washington County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2025

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington County – Board of License Commissioners – Membership**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that certain numbers of members of the Board of License
4 Commissioners for Washington County belong to certain political parties; and
5 generally relating to the membership of the Board of License Commissioners for
6 Washington County.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
9 Section 31–102 and 31–201
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2024 Replacement Volume)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
14 Section 31–202
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2024 Replacement Volume)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis**

20 31–102.

21 This title applies only in Washington County.

22 31–201.

23 There is a Board of License Commissioners for Washington County.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 31-202.

2 (a) (1) The Governor shall appoint three members to the Board.

3 (2) The appointments shall be made:

4 (i) if the Senate is in session, with the advice and consent of the
5 Senate; or

6 (ii) if the Senate is not in session, by the Governor alone.

7 (b) (1) Each member of the Board shall be:

8 (i) a resident and voter of the county; and

9 (ii) an individual of high character and integrity and of recognized
10 business capacity.

11 [(2) Not more than two members of the Board may belong to the same
12 political party.]

13 **(2) (I) TWO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL BELONG TO THE**
14 **POLITICAL PARTY THAT RECEIVED THE HIGHEST AGGREGATED NUMBER OF VOTES**
15 **IN THE PRECEDING ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.**

16 **(II) ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD SHALL BELONG TO THE**
17 **POLITICAL PARTY THAT RECEIVED THE SECOND HIGHEST AGGREGATED NUMBER OF**
18 **VOTES IN THE PRECEDING ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.**

19 (c) A member of the Board may not have a pecuniary or other interest in any
20 phase of the manufacture, sale, or distribution of alcoholic beverages.

21 (d) (1) The term of a member is 6 years.

22 (2) The terms of the members are staggered as required by the terms
23 provided for members of the Board on July 1, 2016.

24 (e) (1) The Governor shall appoint an eligible individual to fill a vacancy
25 during the remainder of the term of office of the individual originally appointed in
26 accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

27 (2) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the
28 remainder of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

1 (f) (1) The Governor may remove a member for misconduct in office,
2 incompetence, or willful neglect of duty.

3 (2) The Governor shall give a member who is charged a copy of the charges
4 against the member and, with at least 10 days' notice, an opportunity to be heard publicly
5 in person or by counsel.

6 (3) If a member is removed, the Governor shall file with the Office of the
7 Secretary of State a statement of charges against the member and the Governor's findings
8 on the charges.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
10 1, 2025.