

# HOUSE BILL 568

A2

5l2670  
CF 5l2683

---

By: **Dorchester County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2025

Assigned to: Economic Matters

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Dorchester County – Alcoholic Beverages – Issuance of License Near a Place of**  
3 **Worship or School**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Dorchester County  
5 to issue an alcoholic beverages license to an establishment that is within a certain  
6 distance of a place of worship or school with the written consent of the place of  
7 worship or school; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in  
8 Dorchester County.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis  
11 Section 19–102  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2024 Replacement Volume)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis  
16 Section 19–1601  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2024 Replacement Volume)

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

21 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis**

22 19–102.

23 This title applies only in Dorchester County.

24 19–1601.

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (a)   (1)   Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Board may not  
2 issue a new license for an establishment that is within 300 feet in a direct line of a place of  
3 worship or a public or nonpublic kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school.

4           (2)   The distance from the establishment to the place of worship or the  
5 public or nonpublic kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school is to be measured from  
6 the establishment in a direct line to the nearest point of the main building of the place of  
7 worship or school.

8           (b)   The prohibition against issuing a license in subsection (a) of this section does  
9 not apply to the issuance of:

10           (1)   a license for a premises that was licensed on October 1, 1996;

11           (2)   a Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license for a premises in  
12 Cambridge, Secretary, or Hurlock; [or]

13           (3)   a temporary license; **OR**

14           (4)   **A LICENSE IF THE BOARD RECEIVES WRITTEN CONSENT TO THE**  
15 **ISSUANCE OF THE LICENSE FROM EACH PLACE OF WORSHIP OR SCHOOL LOCATED**  
16 **WITHIN 300 FEET IN A DIRECT LINE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT FOR WHICH THE**  
17 **LICENSE IS SOUGHT.**

18           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
19 1, 2025.