

FREDERICK COUNTY LIQUOR BOARD
Alcohol Forum Meeting Minutes
Monday August 14, 2023

Those Present: Ms. Joan Aquilino, Chair
Mr. Chris Glass, Commissioner- Virtually
Ms. Jennifer Keefer, Deputy County Attorney
Mr. Robert Lind, Alcoholic Beverage Inspector
Mrs. Dawn Shugars, Director
Mrs. Ashley Kneessi Gay, Administrative Coordinator
Mrs. Candace Sier, Administrative Specialist II
Mrs. Tabitha Vanleeuwen, Administrative Specialist II
Mrs. Trisha Lawson, Administrative Specialist II
Senator Paul Corderman District 2
Legislative Assistant to Senator William Folden District 4-April Montgomery
Legislative Assistant to Del. William Valentine Michele Reheard District 2
Delegate Kristopher Fair District 3- Virtually
Chief of Staff for Del. Fair Ronnie Taylor District 3
Delegate Kenneth Kerr District 3
Delegate Karen Simpson District 3
Delegate Jesse Pippy District 4

An Alcohol Forum Meeting was held In Person and virtually and called to order by Delegate, Jesse Pippy. Introductions was shared by Delegate Jesse Pippy.

1. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. On-premises consumption for Class A licenses-Tom Seymour (Surf House, Maximums, & Orion)-thanked the Delegation for changes to the law this past year in reducing the limit of tasting amounts.
- B. Manufacturing Licensing-Jim Bauckman (Grow & Fortify), Monica Pearce (Tenth Ward), and Brian Ogden (Attaboy Brewery)-spoke about approvals they received from a Field Agent with the Maryland Alcohol Tobacco Cannabis Commission (ATCC) years ago and how manufacturers could do business regarding private parties and outside alcohol. It was brought to their attention by the ATCC that the manufacturers were informed wrong and how this posed a hardship for Breweries and Distilleries in Frederick County that contract private events like weddings. Delegate Pippy stated if the Delegation agrees, they will send a letter to the ATCC.
- C. Stadium license-Erik Schneider (Frederick Keys)-stated the current law in Frederick County allows for the Key's stadium to sell Beer and Wine. He would like the law to change to add the privilege of allowing liquor to be sold at the stadium. The stadium is interested in selling RTD's (canned cocktails) like High Noons. There are other stadiums in the state that already do this.

2. New Legislation for 2024.

- A. Extending the expiration of a license due to hardship.

- Director Shugars asked the Delegation to consider extending the expiration of a license due to a hardship. That would give the Board latitude to hear the hardship and make a judgment call and extend the license past the 10 days.

3. Corrective Legislation.

A. Promoter's Permits

- Director Shugars explained to the Delegation that the language in the Promoter's Permit needs to be corrected to say that the Board may issue the license. This issue was brought to our attention by the ATCC.

B. Basket of Cheer.

- Director Shugars asked the Delegation why did we limit the Basket of Cheer endorsement to only 10 baskets? This correction would remove the limitation to be consistent with other counties.

C. Stadium License

- Director Shugars referred the Delegation to the statements made by Erik Schneider to allow the Stadium to sell liquor.

D. Residency Requirement.

- Director Shugars asked the Delegation to change the residency requirement to Maryland State resident. The current law has old language, but The Liquor Board is currently allowing Maryland residents to apply for licenses. The Board was advised by legal counsel that it is unconstitutional to enforce the Frederick County residency. This change would be to follow suit with other counties.

E. Adjust license fee for Beer only and Beer and Wine licenses.

- Director Shugars presented to the Delegation that Frederick County is one of the lowest counties for Beer only and Beer and Wine licenses. She asked the Delegation to consider raising the fees to follow suit with other counties. She informed the Delegation that she has data from other counties to present on the Alcohol Day in November.

4. Repeal.

A. Repeal 20-902 Class B beer, wine, and liquor Ballenger Election District License.

- Director Shugars told the Delegations that this was once a dry district, and this law was passed to allow restaurants in this specific district to sell beer, wine, and liquor. Since this is no longer a dry district, restaurant owners can apply under 20-904.

5. Requested by Board Member: requirement for licensees to have ownership.

- #### A. Chair Joan Aquilino requested the Delegation look at the ownership requirements. She would like there to be more accountability for the licensees.

Respectfully submitted,
 Trisha Lawson, Administrative Specialist II
 FREDERICK COUNTY LIQUOR BOARD