

Dear Licensee,

Thank you to everyone who participated in or shared feedback for the 2025 Annual Public Alcohol Forum held on October 13, 2025. The Board of Licensed Commissioners appreciates the input and engagement of the community.

For those who were unable to attend, the Alcohol Forum can be viewed online:

-  [Watch the Forum \(begins around 2:15:20\)](#)
-  [Watch the final five minutes \(recorded separately\)](#)

Below is a summary of the items discussed during the Forum:

**1. Class A, Beer & Wine establishments – Request to sell distilled spirit-based RTDs (Ready to Drink / canned cocktails) up to 8% ABV**

A Class A, Beer & Wine license holder requested that the Board consider allowing Class A, Beer & Wine establishments to sell distilled spirit-based RTDs. The requester explained that sales have declined for Class A, Beer Only and Beer & Wine establishments and that allowing canned cocktails up to 8% ABV could help increase traffic and sales. Research showing trends of growth in RTDs and declines in beer sales were shared, along with information on Montgomery County's model, which allows Class A, Beer & Wine licenses to apply for an endorsement to sell distilled spirit-based RTDs up to 8% ABV.

**2. Distilleries – Request to sell alcohol not produced by them**

Two distilleries, one holding a County DDS (Tasting Room) license and another operating under Promoter's Permits, requested that the Board allow distilleries to obtain a license or permit enabling them to sell alcohol not produced by them. This would include bottles sales for off premise and to sell by the drink for on premise. They noted that since COVID-19, and the legalization of cannabis, customer traffic has decreased, and this change could attract more visitors by offering a wider variety of products. The Board discussed that Allegany County has a Class L license allowing manufacturers to not only sell their products but to sell beer, wine, and liquor produced by other manufacturers for on-site consumption. This class of license does not have food/meal requirement. The Board indicated that if such a proposal were pursued, it would likely be limited to Maryland-produced products.

**3. Additional items submitted by email (no representatives present for discussion):**

- Single outdoor seating/consumption areas shared by multiple licensed establishments
- Removing barriers around outdoor seating areas
- Prohibiting grocery stores located in shopping centers with existing liquor stores from selling alcoholic beverages
- Clarifying invoice retention requirements for high-end liquor that remains in stock for more than two years

The above items were read into the record for the Board's awareness, and all submissions were noted for the record.

The Board thanks all participants for their valuable contributions and encourages continued communication on matters that impact licensees and the community. Please email any feedback to [liquorboard@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:liquorboard@frederickcountymd.gov) or join our next hearing on **November 3, 2025**, either virtually or in person, to share your comments or concern. Hearing information can be found on our website.

Sincerely, Frederick County Board of License Commissioners