

Board of License Commissioners (Liquor Board)



The BUZZ

Not Just Another News Letter

The Buzz provides licensees and community members with industry updates, topics of interest and rules & regulations of the BOLC.



Terence Sheppard, Director

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

License renewal is quickly approaching. We understand that this can be a hectic and frustrating time of the year. The best time to submit renewal documents is the first two weeks of every month. This will give our licensee time to resolve any tax holds and obtain missing documentation. Please be reminded that if you wait until the last week of the month to submit your renewal documents, this may cause you to have to file for an extension and pay additional fees. The Board of License Commissioners wants to ensure that all our licensees can renew their license in a timely manner. Be sure to read your renewal packet in its entirety and communicate with our office if you have any issues or concerns. Keep in mind the renewal deadline for Class A licenses is March 3, 2025. The deadline for Class B licenses is April 1, 2025. The deadline for Class C & D Licenses is May 1, 2025. Please see calendars below which will show the busiest times of the month. Be sure to submit your documents prior to the dates indicated in red.

RENEWAL CALENDAR

KEY:

***No Highlight** = BEST time for processing the renewal of a license.

****Yellow Highlight** = Slightly longer wait times.

*****Red Highlight** = RUSH Period. Longer wait

			February			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

			March			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

			April			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

PROTEST PROCESS FOR LICENSE RENEWAL AND LICENSES/PERMITS

Pursuant to 26-1803 of the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland citizens of Prince George's County may file formal protest with the Board of License Commissioners concerning the following:

PROTEST OF A LICENSE RENEWAL

Community members, within 1 mile of the location of the proposed place of business, must submit a written letter of opposition to protest the renewal of an Alcoholic Beverage License. This letter must also be supported by a signed petition to the Board of License Commissioners no later than March 1st. Following the submission of the opposition letter and petition, a public hearing will be scheduled.

PROTEST OF ALL OTHER LICENSES/PERMITS

Community members must submit a written letter of opposition and petitions on the issuance of an Alcoholic Beverage License to the Board of License Commissioners at least 5 days prior to the scheduled hearing date.

Note: Alcoholic Beverage Licenses refers to the submission of a New, Transfer, Transfer of Location and Conversion application. Permits refers to the submission of a Special Entertainment, Family Entertainment, Delivery and Special Sunday Off-Sales application.

Alcohol Awareness Training

Alcohol Awareness Training is to educate about local alcohol and safe serving techniques. The end goal is to ensure that anyone serving alcohol (servers, bartenders, managers, store clerks) has the knowledge to sell and serve alcohol in a responsible way and within the legally defined regulations.

Alcohol Awareness Training is required for all applicants seeking an Alcoholic Beverage License. You may contact the BOLC for a list of Maryland certified vendors that provide this training.

Email: blc@co.pg.md.us

Phone: (301) 583-9980

Stay Connected With The BOLC

To stay updated on all things BOLC follow us on:

County Website — <http://bolc.mypgc.us>

YouTube — [PGC BOLC - YouTube](#)

Facebook — Board of License Commissioners

In addition, you can attend our monthly virtual hearings via Zoom (The link can be found on our county website)

Or reach out to our friendly staff!

FACT CHECK

Question: Can Board approved alcoholic beverage tastings be sold in a Class A establishment?

Answer: No

Rule and Regulation #8 for Class A license holders (Liquor Stores) states that alcoholic beverages cannot be consumed on the licensed premises unless they have a tasting permit. However, even with a tasting permit, the alcoholic beverages used for tasting cannot be sold to patrons. The sale of alcoholic beverages is limited to closed bottles only within the store premises.

If a licensee was to permit the sale of the tasting sample, that licensee would be in direct violation of Rule and Regulation #37- "changing the mode of operation of the business."

R.R. NO. 67 – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE TASTING PERMIT:

The annual fee for the Tasting Permit is:

Beer Tasting Permit	\$120.00
Beer and Wine Tasting Permit	\$120.00
Beer, Wine and Liquor Tasting Permit	\$220.00



The hours of operation for an Alcoholic Beverage Tasting Permit are to be in conjunction and in accordance with the hours of the various classes of licenses as provided for in the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

The bottles of alcoholic beverages to be sampled - once opened - must be accurately and specifically marked indicating that these bottles are for sampling purposes only.

The licensee shall **NOT** provide more than:

3 ounces from each brand of beer to any one patron.

1.5 ounces from each brand of wine product to any one patron.

½ ounce of liquor from any given brand and not more than 1.5 ounces from all brands to any one patron.

The age and sobriety of any person tasting or sampling alcoholic beverages must be in accordance with the provisions of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and the local Rules and Regulations and all restrictions apply.

Under no circumstances are these samples to be consumed off the licensed premises. Alcoholic beverage tasting is for consumption "On" the licensed premises only.

- ♦ *This Rule and Regulation is critical because many licensees may not be aware of the ounces permitted for tasting, product labeling requirements and the maximum consumption by any one patron.*

OPERATION CLEAN CREATES AWARENESS

Upcoming events that the BOLC want you to know!!

“OPERATION CLEAN” was such a success, it’s coming back!!

Operation Clean is the Board of License Commissioner’s effort to ensure licensed liquor establishments are operating within County and State standards regarding trash and debris on the premises, as well as an over abundance of signage on the property. The focus of this operation was liquor stores operating in Prince George’s County.

Liquor Inspectors examined the outside grounds of the premises in search of trash, debris and over abundance of signage that can be seen from the outside (front glass) of the establishment. This effort was in support of the County Executive’s Growing Green Initiative for the beautification of Prince George’s County. Establishments found not in compliance were given an opportunity to make corrections within 15 days.



“Operation Clean” will take place in the upcoming months. **Stay Tuned!**

THE HISTORIAN

History of the Drinking Age in Prince George’s County, Maryland

In 1971, the 26th Amendment was passed. This amendment lowered the voting age from 21 to 18. This in turn led the Prince George’s County Delegation to introduce legislation to allow 18-year-olds to drink.

In 1973, the minimum drinking age was lowered to 18 in Prince George’s County. In 1974, the minimum drinking age was lowered to 18 for the entire state of Maryland. In 1982, the minimum age was increased to 21 years old but included a grandfather clause which allowed those who had already turned 18 before June 30, 1964, to consume beer and wine.

Due to reports of increased fatalities caused by individuals between the ages of 18 to 21, groups like the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Mothers Against Drunk Driving lobbied and were able to move legislation forward to increase the drinking age to 21. Two years later this became a National Law.



What's the 411? Annual Food Drive

The Board of License Commissioners (BOLC) held its Third Annual Holiday Food Drive from November 2024 through January 2025. Agency staff, commissioners, and customers were encouraged to give back during this time of year to those who are less fortunate. Our food drive was extended through January 2025 due to the overwhelming response in donations. Canned goods and non-perishable items were donated to Shabach! Ministries, Inc. Food Pantry in Glenarden, Maryland. The BOLC has decided to continue to accept donations throughout the year and make efforts to give back to our community.



KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW

NEW OR UPDATED POLICIES

The Board of License Commissioners (BOLC) serves a quasi-judicial function in administering and enforcing the Alcoholic Beverage Laws of the State of Maryland and the Rules and Regulations of the BOLC. Over the past few months the BOLC drafted new and revised several Rules and Regulations that have been approved. Below is the list of new/revised Rules and Regulations:

RR #7—Consumption of Bottled Goods

RR#36—Entertainment Permit Application Process

RR #75—Entertainment Permits

RR #75.1—Entertainment Permits (U.MD Only)

RR #88—Non-Effectuation (New)

To download the new Rules and Regulations you may go to the BOLC website at <http://bolc.mypgc.us>

COMPLIANCE: IT'S THE LAW

Pursuant to Sections 6-304 and 26-2707 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, a licensee or any of his/her employees or agents, may not sell, serve, furnish or allow the consumption or possession of any alcoholic beverages at any time to any person under the age of **twenty-one (21)** years.

During 2023-2024 calendar years, the BOLC conducted underage compliance check. One hundred and thirty-five (135) businesses passed the compliance check by verifying the underage purchaser's age and refused to sell alcoholic beverages to minors.

ASKED & ANSWERED



Q1: How do I apply for an Alcoholic Beverage License? Where do I start?

A: Applicants must be a resident and a registered voter in the State of Maryland.

Step 1 – Applications may be found at the BOLC's website at: <http://bolc.mypgc.us>

Note: Application must be TYPED and fully completed.

Step 2 – Click on New Application Process and select New/Transfer Application.

Step 3 – Submit a copy of a floor plan or interior layout design of the establishment.

Step 4 – Submit a copy of 2 forms of ID (refer to page 1 of the Rules & Regulations)

Step 5 - Submit the application fee of \$700 in the form of a Money Order, Cashier's Check or Certified Check payable to

Prince George's County. (Cash, Business and Personal Checks will not be accepted)

Step 6- Complete a Criminal Background application in the State of Maryland.

Q2: I'm having an event, is BYOB or BYOL permitted in Prince Georges County? (Pursuant to 26-2501 of the Annotated Code of Maryland)

A: NO: A person, including an owner or operator of an establishment may not serve, keep, or allow to be consumed by a customer, alcoholic beverages from supplies that the customer purchased, reserved, or otherwise brought to the establishment from supplies purchased or otherwise brought to the establishment by the owner or operator of the establishment or an agent of the owner or operator.

Q3: What class of alcoholic beverage license is best for my establishment?

A: Types of classes of licenses available:

Class A- Liquors Stores (Not permitted to issue this class of license since 1996 per the Annotated Code of Maryland)

Class B- Restaurant, Lounges, Hotels, Entertainment Facility (Stadiums)

Class C- Veteran, Fraternal Organizations, Golf Courses, Country Clubs

Class D- Taverns, Salons, etc.

Q4: How do I obtain a mobile liquor license?

A: The county does not issue mobile liquor licenses; however, you may contact the State of Maryland Alcohol Tobacco and Cannabis Commission at 410-260-7314 to enquire about their policy on mobile liquor license.

Q5: How do I know if an establishment is applying for an alcoholic beverage license in my community?

A: The BOLC advertises in both the Prince George's Post and Gazette newspapers at least two (2) weeks prior to a scheduled hearing. Citizens may also check the BOLC website for monthly agendas. Hearing Posting Signs are also placed on the establishment requesting alcoholic beverage license in each community. Agendas are sent to those who have subscribed to the BOLC's email distribution list.

Q6: How do I obtain a criminal background check?

A: Applicants applying for an alcoholic beverage license who reside in the State of Maryland must use the LiveScan form obtained from the BOLC office or website with the BOLC agency authorization code. After completing the form, applicants can go to any fingerprinting service in the State of Maryland to have their criminal background check completed.

For listings, please visit: <https://www.dpscs.state.md.us/publicservs/fingerprint.shtml>