

*unless the Board conducts another hearing and further restricts licenses in the manner provided herein.*

*(2) The Board is required to conduct a hearing on restricting of licenses upon the receipt of a petition designating an area to be restricted and signed by at least fifty persons who are property owners and registered voters of the precinct in which the proposed restricted area lies.*

(B) (1) IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO RESTRICT ANY SPECIFIED AREA WITHIN THE COUNTY TO THE EXISTING NUMBER OF LICENSES THEREIN OR TO ANY OTHER NUMBER OF LICENSES IT MAY, IN ITS DISCRETION, DEEM APPROPRIATE. BEFORE ANY SPECIFIED AREA SHALL BE RESTRICTED, THE BOARD SHALL CONDUCT A HEARING ON THE PROPOSED RESTRICTED AREA WHICH SHALL BE ADVERTISED IN THE MANNER REQUIRED FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A NEW LICENSE. AFTER TESTIMONY IS TAKEN FOR AND AGAINST THE RESTRICTION OF LICENSES IN A SPECIFIED AREA, THE BOARD MAY PROHIBIT THE ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL LICENSES, OR FIX THE NUMBER OF LICENSES TO BE PERMITTED IN SUCH AREA AND SHALL DETERMINE THE LIMITS OF THAT AREA. THE BOARD MAY RESTRICT THE NUMBER OF LICENSES OR PROHIBIT ADDITIONAL LICENSES IN ANY SPECIFIED AREA, WHEN, IN THE OPINION OF THE BOARD, THE AREA HAS EITHER; 1. SUFFICIENT LICENSED PREMISES FOR THE ACCOMMODATION OF THE PUBLIC, OR 2. BECOME SATURATED WITH LICENSED PREMISES TO THE EXTENT THAT SPECIAL POLICING IS REQUIRED AND TRAFFIC HAZARDS ARE CREATED THEREIN, OR 3. CHANGED CHARACTER SO THAT THE EXISTING NUMBER OF LICENSED PREMISES IS INCONSISTENT WITH PRESENT USAGE OF THE AREA AND AN INCREASE IN THE LICENSED PREMISES LOCATED WITHIN THE AREA WILL UNDULY DISTURB THE PEACE OF THE RESIDENTS THEREIN. A SPECIFIED AREA MAY BE RESTRICTED BY THE BOARD, IN ITS DISCRETION, FOR ANY PERIOD OF MORE THAN ONE YEAR, BUT NOT FOR A PERIOD OF MORE THAN FOUR YEARS. AT THE END OF THE PERIOD FIXED BY THE BOARD, THE RESTRICTIONS SHALL TERMINATE AND BE OF NO FURTHER EFFECT, UNLESS THE BOARD CONDUCTS ANOTHER HEARING AND FURTHER RESTRICTS THE NUMBER OF LICENSES IN THE MANNER PROVIDED HEREIN.

(2) THE BOARD SHALL BE REQUIRED TO CONDUCT A HEARING ON RESTRICTING THE NUMBER OF LICENSES OR PROHIBITION OF ADDITIONAL LICENSES IN ANY SPECIFIED AREA UPON THE RECEIPT OF A PETITION REQUESTING SUCH RESTRICTION OR PROHIBITION AND DESIGNATING THE SPECIFIC AREA TO BE RESTRICTED, PROVIDED THE PETITION IS SIGNED BY AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE PERSONS WHO ARE PROPERTY OWNERS AND REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE PRECINCT IN WHICH THE PROPOSED RESTRICTED AREA LIES.