

CHAPTER 617

(Senate Bill 605)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 163 (i) of Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Supplement), title "Alcoholic Beverages", sub-title "County Liquor Control Boards and Dispensaries", amending the alcoholic beverage laws applicable to Harford County in order to change the qualifications required of the person appointed as chief inspector for the Liquor Control Board of Harford County.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 163 (i) of Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Supplement), title "Alcoholic Beverages", sub-title "County Liquor Control Boards and Dispensaries", be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

163.

(i) (1) In Harford County, the liquor control board shall employ one full time chief inspector and such other inspector or inspectors as in its discretion shall be required from time to time. Provided, however, that neither the Sheriff, any deputy sheriff or any constable or municipal peace officer in Harford County shall be eligible to be appointed or to serve as the chief inspector or as an inspector. The person appointed to be chief inspector shall have had at the time of appointment [at least three years' experience in bookkeeping and accounting or shall have a degree in accounting from a recognized college or university] *investigative experience as a police officer or as an inspector for a governmental agency or as a police officer or investigator for a private agency.* After appointment, the chief inspector shall serve as such and shall be discharged only for cause involving dishonesty, incompetency or immoral conduct; and prior to his discharge, he shall be given a list of the charges against him and an opportunity to reply thereto in an open hearing either in person or by counsel. The chief inspector with the approval of the liquor control board shall be empowered to contract with or hire any independent accounting firm to audit the books and accounts of any licensee. The liquor control board is authorized to establish and change from time to time such reasonable compensation for the chief inspector or any other inspector or inspectors as is warranted by their respective duties and responsibilities. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to relieve from the responsibility of enforcing the provisions of this article in Harford County the several peace officers listed in Section 187 of this article.

(2) In Harford County the liquor control board shall appoint a general manager, who shall act as secretary-treasurer of the board and who shall be the chief business administrative officer of the board under its control and supervision. No board member shall be eligible to fill said position while retaining his membership on the liquor control board. The manager so appointed shall hold office during good behavior and shall be discharged only for cause involving dishonesty, incompetency, or immoral conduct after opportunity for hearing.

(3) The salaries of all employers of the liquor control board shall