

CHAPTER 724

(House Bill 1053)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 68(a) of Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Supplement), title "Alcoholic Beverages," subtitle "Renewal of Licenses," to provide that IN BALTIMORE CITY when a protest is filed against the renewal of a license a hearing shall be held as to the specific complaint and not as to original application.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 68(a) of Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Supplement), title "Alcoholic Beverages," subtitle "Renewal of Licenses," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

68.

(a) The holder or holders of any expiring license, other than special licenses issued under the provisions of this article, shall, not less than thirty (30) nor more than sixty (60) days before the first day of May of each and every year, file a written application, duly verified by oath, for the renewal of such license with the official authorized to approve the same. Such renewal application shall state that the facts in the original application are unchanged, and shall be accompanied by a statement signed by the owner of the premises consenting to renewal of the license and to search and seizure as in the case of original applications except that in the case of retail dealers applying for renewal, such statement of consent by the owner of the premises shall not be required if such owner has previously signed such a statement in connection with an original application or previous renewal application giving such consent for the term of such owner's lease with the applicant if the lease or renewal thereof does not expire during the term of the renewal license, and upon the filing of such renewal application, and upon payment of the annual fee herein prescribed, the holder or holders of such expiring license shall be entitled to a new license for another year without the filing of further statements or the furnishing of any further information unless specifically requested by the official authorized to approve such license. Provided, however, that no license by way of renewal shall be approved without a hearing before such official if a protest signed by not less than ten residents or real estate owners of the precinct or voting district in which the licensed place of business is located, or instituted by the licensing board on its own initiative, has been filed against the granting of such new license at least thirty (30) days before the expiration of the license for which renewal is sought. If such protest has been filed it shall be heard and determined ~~not~~ as in the case of original applications, EXCEPT IN BALTIMORE CITY IT SHALL BE HEARD AND DETERMINED NOT AS IN THE CASE OF ORIGINAL APPLICATION *in regard to zoning but only on a specific complaint as to the operation of said licensee(s) establishments.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1969.

Approved May 14, 1969.