

Preamble

House Bill 1793 of 1979, concerning Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages, was signed into law as Chapter 742 of the Laws of 1979, pending approval at a referendum. Several technical errors in the bill were subsequently discovered, along with a possible legal question resulting from a Court of Appeals decision in Anne Arundel County v. McDonough, 277 Md. 271 (1976).

The Court decision stated the need to insure that voters have full knowledge of the questions they are being asked to vote upon. The Attorney General indicated his belief that House Bill 1793 as enacted did not meet this requirement because of a reference to "Abolishing" the liquor dispensary system in Harford County, without specifying that it was being replaced. This bill is intended to deal with these problems; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland (as enacted by Chapter 742 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1979) be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages

14.

(g) (4) Licensees under this subsection may apply for an option to their license which is governed by the provisions of Section 18(o) and [18(n)] SECTION 19(N).

52A.

(b) In Harford County the liquor control board may not issue more than one Class A off-sale license or one B1 and B2 license (inclusive) for every 2,500 of population. In addition, one additional Class A-1 or A-2 beer, wine, and liquor off-sale license or Class B option [shall] MAY be issued by the liquor control board for every 20,000 of population after July 1, 1982. However, in Harford County a B-1 temporary license may be issued to those persons who wish after six months to operate a bona fide Class B license. The B-1 license shall be revoked after the six-month period has expired if the licensee has not met all requirements for a Class B license. The population figures are those specified by the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That chapter(s) of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Chapter 742 of the Acts of 1979