

68.

(a) The holder of any expiring license, other than special licenses issued under the provisions of this article, shall, not less than 30 nor more than 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 the license with the official authorized to approve the same. The renewal application shall state that the facts in the original application are unchanged. It 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. In the case of retail dealers applying for renewal, the statement of consent by the owner of the premises may not be required if the owner has previously signed such a statement in connection with an original application or previous renewal application giving consent for the term of the owner's lease with the applicant if the lease or renewal does not expire during the term of the renewal license. In Prince George's County, if an applicant for renewal under this subsection or subsection [68](f) of this [article] SECTION complies with the requirement of submitting a statement or certificate of approval signed by the owner of the premises consenting to renewal of the license and to inspection and searches of the premises, as in the case of original applications, the Prince George's County board of license commissioners may not require an applicant to hold a lease on the premises for the full term or any portion of the license renewal period. Upon the filing of the renewal application, and upon payment of the annual fee, the holder of the expiring license is 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 the license. A license by way of renewal may not be approved without a hearing before such official if a protest has been filed against the granting of the new license at least 30 days, and in Prince George's County no later than March 1 of the year in which the license expires, before the expiration of the license for which renewal is sought. This protest shall be (1) signed by not less than ten residents or real estate owners in the immediate vicinity in which the licensed place of business is located; or (2) instituted by the Board of Licensing Commissioners on its own initiative; or (3) in Prince George's County, instituted by the municipality in which the licensed place of business is located subsequent to a public hearing by the municipality. If the protest has been filed it shall be heard and determined 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 the licensee's establishments.

74.