

Sincerely,  
Parris N. Glendening  
Governor

**Senate Bill No. 728**

AN ACT concerning

**Cigarette Business Licenses – Manufacturers and Wholesalers**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a licensed manufacturer of cigarettes or a person connected to the business of a licensed manufacturer from simultaneously holding a financial interest in a cigarette wholesaler license or wholesaler business; prohibiting a licensed wholesaler or person connected to the business of a licensed wholesaler from simultaneously holding a financial interest in a manufacturer license or manufacturer business; authorizing a manufacturer licensee to, upon approval of the State Comptroller, act as an agent for a licensed wholesaler for stamping and distribution of cigarettes; authorizing a wholesale licensee to, upon approval of the State Comptroller, designate a licensed manufacturer to act as its agent for the stamping and distribution of cigarettes; and generally relating to cigarette business licensing.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Business Regulation

Section 16-202 and 16-206(a) and (f)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1992 Volume and 1996 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Business Regulation**

16-202.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a person must have an appropriate license whenever the person acts as a manufacturer, retailer, storage warehouse, subwholesaler, vending machine operator, or wholesaler in the State.

(b) A person need not get a retailer license to act as a retailer at a vending stand operated under a trader's license issued to Blind Industries and Services of Maryland.

(c) A license to act as a retailer is required for each place of business where a person acts as a retailer.

(D) (1) A PERSON LICENSED AS A MANUFACTURER, OR PERSON CONNECTED WITH THE BUSINESS OF A LICENSED MANUFACTURER OR RELATED BY OWNERSHIP, MAY NOT AT THE SAME TIME HOLD OR HAVE ANY FINANCIAL INTEREST IN A WHOLESALER LICENSE OR IN ANY BUSINESS OF A WHOLESALER.