



Legislation – 2015

The Maryland General Assembly is now in session in Annapolis and several bills have been introduced which could affect the alcohol beverage industry in Maryland. The following is only a partial list of the bills that have been introduced so far this session:

- ✓ Senate Bill 300/House Bill 1061 – to allow certain individuals to hold two class A (off-sale) licenses
- ✓ Senate Bill 213 – to allow active duty military personnel between 18 and 21 to drink beer and wine
- ✓ House Bill 311 – to allow supermarket chain stores to hold a class B (on-sale) license
- ✓ Senate Bill 93/House Bill 102 – to allow a civil action against licensees and servers for negligence in selling or serving alcoholic beverages

More information and the complete text of each bill is available on the Maryland General Assembly website:

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frm1st.aspx?tab=home>.

If you think this or other legislation may have an effect on your business, the General Assembly website is a good way to stay informed. Your legislators are always willing to listen to your input on pending legislation. Let them know your views before a decision is made in Annapolis without your views being heard.

Vodka Thefts

Several licensees have reported a subject attempting to steal 1.75 liter bottles of top shelf vodka. The suspect places the bottles inside his pants and attempts to leave the store. The suspect is a black male with neck tattoos. If you encounter this person please contact the Sheriff's Office immediately. Contact the Board office for more information.

Outdoor Seating

It is cold and snowy outside now but not too early to consider adding an outdoor seating area to your business. If you don't currently have an outdoor seating area or are thinking of adding to the one you already have, please contact the Board office for more information. Before starting construction you may also need approval from the Fire Marshal, Health Department, and the Harford County Building Permits Section.

Keg Thefts

The Board has received information from a licensee in the southern half of the county about a subject attempting to return several beer kegs to claim the deposit. Retail licensees may not accept any keg without a valid keg registration sticker since kegs without stickers cannot be sold to individuals. The kegs may have been stolen or otherwise misappropriated. The white male suspect was in a white, wood paneled station wagon with Maryland tags. This case has been turned over to the Harford County Sheriff's Office. If you observe the suspect please contact the Sheriff's Office immediately. Contact the Board office for more information.

Renewal applications must be returned to the Board office by March 16, 2015, to avoid the \$200 late processing fee