

SENATE BILL 855

L2, A2, F4

4lr2947
CF HB 921

By: **Washington County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Finance and Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington County – Board of License Commissioners and Board of Community**
3 **College Trustees – Membership**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring that certain numbers of members of the Board of License
5 Commissioners for Washington County and the Board of Community College
6 Trustees for Washington County shall belong to certain political parties; and
7 generally relating to the membership of the Board of License Commissioners and the
8 Board of Community College Trustees in Washington County.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
11 Section 31–102 and 31–201
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2016 Volume and 2023 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
16 Section 31–202
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2016 Volume and 2023 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20 Article – Education
21 Section 16–419
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 31-102.

2 This title applies only in Washington County.

3 31-201.

4 There is a Board of License Commissioners for Washington County.

5 31-202.

6 (a) (1) The Governor shall appoint three members to the Board.

7 (2) The appointments shall be made:

8 (i) if the Senate is in session, with the advice and consent of the
9 Senate; or

10 (ii) if the Senate is not in session, by the Governor alone.

11 (b) (1) Each member of the Board shall be:

12 (i) a resident and voter of the county; and

13 (ii) an individual of high character and integrity and of recognized
14 business capacity.

15 [(2) Not more than two members of the Board may belong to the same
16 political party.]

17 **(2) (I) TWO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL BELONG TO THE**
18 **POLITICAL PARTY THAT RECEIVED THE HIGHEST AGGREGATED NUMBER OF VOTES**
19 **IN THE PRECEDING ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.**

20 **(II) ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD SHALL BELONG TO THE**
21 **POLITICAL PARTY THAT RECEIVED THE SECOND HIGHEST AGGREGATED NUMBER OF**
22 **VOTES IN THE PRECEDING ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.**

23 (c) A member of the Board may not have a pecuniary or other interest in any
24 phase of the manufacture, sale, or distribution of alcoholic beverages.

25 (d) (1) The term of a member is 6 years.

26 (2) The terms of the members are staggered as required by the terms
27 provided for members of the Board on July 1, 2016.

1 (e) (1) The Governor shall appoint an eligible individual to fill a vacancy
2 during the remainder of the term of office of the individual originally appointed in
3 accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

4 (2) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the
5 remainder of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

6 (f) (1) The Governor may remove a member for misconduct in office,
7 incompetence, or willful neglect of duty.

8 (2) The Governor shall give a member who is charged a copy of the charges
9 against the member and, with at least 10 days' notice, an opportunity to be heard publicly
10 in person or by counsel.

11 (3) If a member is removed, the Governor shall file with the Office of the
12 Secretary of State a statement of charges against the member and the Governor's findings
13 on the charges.

14 Article – Education

15 16–419.

16 (a) The Board of Community College Trustees for Washington County consists of
17 seven members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

18 (b) **(1) FOUR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL BELONG TO THE**
19 **POLITICAL PARTY THAT RECEIVED THE HIGHEST AGGREGATED NUMBER OF VOTES**
20 **IN THE PRECEDING ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; AND**

21 **(2) THREE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL BELONG TO THE**
22 **POLITICAL PARTY THAT RECEIVED THE SECOND HIGHEST AGGREGATED NUMBER OF**
23 **VOTES IN THE PRECEDING ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.**

24 (c) Each of the members:

25 (1) Shall be residents of Washington County at the time of appointment;
26 and

27 (2) Shall maintain residency in Washington County throughout the term
28 of appointment.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2024.