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**BALTIMORE CITY LIQUOR BOARD ADOPTS 2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS;
EFFECTIVE DATE NOVEMBER 2, 2026**

At its hearing on Thursday, September 24, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) adopted its 2026 Rules and Regulations, which will take effect on November 2, 2026. The newly revised Rules reflect months of collaboration and engagement with a broad range of stakeholders and represent a comprehensive effort to create a regulatory framework that is clear, fair, responsive to a changing hospitality industry, and respectful of the communities in which licensed establishments operate.

The Board released the proposed Rules and Regulations on July 24, 2026, providing the 30-day public comment period required by law and extending its engagement beyond that period to gather additional feedback. The process included City and State elected officials, community leaders, licensees, attorneys, government and quasi-governmental agencies, and restaurant and hospitality organizations. Based on the feedback received, the Board made a number of changes and additions to the proposed Rules to provide greater clarity and better reflect the needs of licensees, residents, and other stakeholders.

The 2026 Rules also recognize that Baltimore's hospitality industry is evolving and that the City's regulatory framework must evolve with it. Several of the most significant changes are designed to embrace emerging trends and provide new opportunities for licensed establishments while establishing clear standards for responsible operation.

Key Updates to the 2026 Rules and Regulations

- Modernizes and clarifies the Rules to reduce confusion and promote consistent application for licensees, residents, and other stakeholders.
- Establishes Maryland's first regulatory program for third-party alcohol delivery services, such as DoorDash, Grubhub, and Uber Eats, allowing licensees and residents to benefit from the convenience of third-party delivery while establishing safeguards for responsible alcohol delivery.

- Creates a regulatory framework for speakeasy-style spaces and provides clearer standards for other emerging hospitality trends, including bottle service and Ready-to-Drink cocktails (RTDs).
- Places a greater emphasis on education by requiring informational sessions for new licensees and allowing the Board to require additional education in connection with violations.
- Revises the rules and procedures governing one-day licenses to provide greater clarity and efficiency in the application process.

The 2026 Rules and Regulations reflect the Board's effort to strike an important balance: supporting innovation and economic opportunity within Baltimore's hospitality industry while maintaining the accountability and protections necessary to preserve the peace and safety of Baltimore's neighborhoods.

"I am proud of the thoughtful work that went into this document. These Rules strike a real balance. They create an environment where our licensed establishments can thrive and give the Board the tools it needs to protect the peace, safety, and quality of life of Baltimore's neighborhoods," said Granville Templeton, III, Esq., Chairman of the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City. *"I want to thank the Board's staff and my colleagues on the Board for the significant amount of work that went into reviewing and preparing the Rules now before us."*

Commissioner Donald L. Chambers, Jr., added: *"This collaborative process shows that we want our licensees to be successful business owners, but we also want them to understand their responsibility to be good neighbors and positive members of the communities in which they operate."*

Commissioner Taueret K. Thomas remarked: *"As both a small business owner and a chef, I understand firsthand how these Rules can affect the day-to-day operations of our licensed establishments. I was pleased to bring that perspective to the process, particularly as we worked through the practical details of industry practices such as catering. I'm proud of the thoughtful, comprehensive Rules we have developed and believe they will provide greater clarity for both our licensees and the communities they serve."*

"I was happy to contribute to the Rules overhaul, lending my past Board experience and historical perspective as we evaluated potential changes," added alternate Commissioner Elizabeth A. Hafey, Esq.

The 2026 Rules and Regulations will be available on the BLLC website, and will go into effect on November 2, 2026.

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