

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 508
Economic Matters

(Delegate Walkup, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Kent County - Alcoholic Beverages - Special Theater License

This bill creates a special theater (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license in Kent County. The license may be issued by the Board of License Commissioners of Kent County to a theater that is housed within a building, has a minimum capacity of 150 installed seats, and regularly presents live entertainment. The licensee is authorized to sell beer, wine, and liquor at retail for on-premises consumption for two hours before the entertainment begins, during the entertainment, and for one hour after the entertainment ends. The annual license fee is set at \$500.

The bill is effective June 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Kent County revenues will increase by approximately \$400 annually. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no special theater (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license in Kent County. Special theater licenses are available in Baltimore, Montgomery, and Washington counties. The proposed special theater license for Kent County most

resembles the law authorizing a special theater license in Baltimore County except that the seating requirement is 1,500 seats and the license fee is \$1,000.

Background: Kent County advises that it anticipates only one existing theater to apply for and be granted a special theater (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license. This theater opened in November 2001 and has purchased two one-day special Class C licenses for special events to date in fiscal 2002. It is expected that the theater will purchase two additional licenses in fiscal 2002 and that absent this bill four one-day special Class C licenses would be purchased by the theater in any given year. One-day special Class C licenses cost \$25.

Local Fiscal Effect: Kent County revenues will increase by \$500 for each special theater (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license issued. Assuming only one license is issued to the existing theater, Kent County revenues will increase by \$400 annually. This assumes the existing theater discontinues purchasing the four one-day special Class C licenses at an annual cost of \$100.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Kent County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2002
ncs/hlb

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