

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 353 (Delegate Carter, *et al.*)
Economic Matters

Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer, Wine, and Liquor Tasting License

This bill authorizes the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners to issue a Class BWLT beer, wine, and liquor (on-premises) tasting license to a holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license in Ward 27, Precinct 44 of the 41st Legislative District.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in Baltimore City license fee revenues. Enforcement can be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful effect for businesses holding Class A beer, wine, and liquor licenses in the affected area in Baltimore City.

Analysis

Current Law: Baltimore City has the Class WS license for wine sampling and the Class BWT license for beer and wine tasting. The holder of either class of license is permitted to serve the relevant type of alcoholic beverage in amounts specified in statute. Each license is valid for one day and no applicant may be granted more than 12 licenses per year.

Chapter 342 of 2009 authorized the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners to issue a Class BWLT beer, wine, and liquor tasting license for on-site

consumption in Ward 27, Precinct 42 of the 41st Legislative District of Baltimore City; Ward 27, Precinct 41 of the 43rd Legislative District of Baltimore City; and Ward 11, Precinct 5 of the 44th Legislative District of Baltimore City.

The fees for a Class BWLT license are as follows:

- \$20 for a daily tasting license, which may be issued not more than 12 times in any annual license year;
- \$200 annually for a 26-day tasting license, which may be used consecutively or nonconsecutively; and
- \$300 annually for a 52-day tasting license, which may be used consecutively or nonconsecutively.

The fees for a Class BWLT license are in addition to the Class A annual license fee.

Small Business Effect: Both the Baltimore City government and the Comptroller's Office report that the number of qualifying licensees in Ward 27, Precinct 44 of the 41st Legislative District is unknown. In any case, businesses holding Class A beer, wine, and liquor licenses in the affected legislative district may offer significantly more tasting events than before. These businesses will also have an advantage over Class A-2 license holders or Class A license holders outside of the ward.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 120 (Senators Gladden and Conway) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 29, 2010
mpc/hlb

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