

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 391 (Senator Shank, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Washington County - Alcoholic Beverages - Wine Festival License

This bill authorizes the Washington County Board of License Commissioners to issue a special wine festival (WF) license. The license authorizes a licensee to display and sell wine at the Washington County Wine Festival for consumption on or off the premises for the days and hours designated for the festival. The license fee is \$20.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in Washington County revenues from special wine festival license fees. County expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Overall minimal but beneficial for Maryland wineries that are able to sell wine at a Washington County Wine Festival as a result of the bill.

Analysis

Bill Summary: An applicant for a special wine festival license must already possess a retail alcoholic beverages license, a State Class 3 winery license, or a State Class 4 limited winery license; however, a wine festival licensee is not precluded from holding another alcoholic beverages license of a different class or nature from the prerequisite licenses.

The board of license commissioners may choose two weekends per year for the festival and must choose locations that do not have an alcoholic beverages license. The board of license commissioners must adopt regulations to implement the bill's provisions and assure that the primary focus of the festival is the promotion of Maryland wine.

Current Law: The Washington County Board of License Commissioners is not currently authorized to issue wine festival licenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 413 (Washington County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Comptroller's Office, Washington County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2011
ncs/hlb

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