

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 543

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Montgomery County - Alcoholic Beverages - Special Culinary School License
MC 14-11

This bill establishes a special culinary school license in Montgomery County for use on the premises of a private culinary educational institution that (1) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting association; (2) is approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission; and (3) holds a private educational institution license issued by Montgomery County. The annual license fee is \$400.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Minimal increase in Montgomery County revenues. Expenditures are not directly affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners may by unanimous vote issue a special culinary school license. The license authorizes the holder to:

- in connection with a wine tasting course offered by the license holder, allow the consumption of wine by individuals who are at least 21 years old and are registered in the wine tasting course; and
- in connection with a culinary or confectionary course offered by the license holder, allow the consumption of beer and wine by individuals who are registered in the course.

A license holder may conduct these activities seven days per week during specified hours. A license holder must provide food during the hours alcoholic beverages are served and the beer or wine covered by special culinary license can only be consumed on the licensed premises. A license holder may not simultaneously hold any other license issued under this article, however, up to three culinary school licenses may be issued to a single culinary school for separate locations. The bill also exempts the special culinary school license from the proximity limitations to schools, places of worship, and youth centers as specified in statute.

Current Law: Generally, with specified exceptions, the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners may not issue any license to sell alcoholic beverages within 750 feet of any secondary or elementary school, church or other place of worship, or youth center sponsored or conducted by any governmental agency.

Generally, with specified exceptions, no more than one alcoholic beverages license may be issued for the use of any entity and no more than one license shall be issued for the same premises.

Background: The Maryland Higher Education Commission indicates there is currently one private culinary education institution in Montgomery County that meets the approval requirement under the bill. This institution, L' Academie de Cuisine, offers professional culinary training in Gaithersburg and recreational cooking classes in Bethesda.

Local Fiscal Effect: Each licensee would be required to pay the one-time \$663 application fee and the \$400 annual fee in the first year; and the \$400 annual fee plus a \$100 renewal fee in subsequent years. The impact on Montgomery County revenues is expected to be minimal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission, Comptroller's Office,
Montgomery County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2011
mc/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 22, 2011

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