

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1062
Economic Matters

(Delegate Hershey, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Queen Anne's County - Beer, Wine and Liquor Tasting License

This bill authorizes the Queen Anne's County Board of License Commissioners to issue a beer, wine, and liquor tasting (BWLTL) license to the holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license. A BWLTL license allows the licensee to provide samples of up to 1 ounce of beer from a given brand and 4 ounces from all brands; up to 2 ounces of wine from a given brand and 4 ounces from all brands; and up to 0.5 ounce of liquor from a given brand and 1.5 ounces from all brands to any one person in a single day for tasting. The annual license fee for the BWLTL license is \$100 which is in addition to the fee for any other alcoholic beverages license held by the license holder.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Queen Anne's County alcoholic beverages license fee revenues increase minimally beginning in FY 2013 from issuance of BWLTL licenses at an annual fee of \$100. Any enforcement activities can be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. Holders of Class A beer, wine, and liquor licenses in Queen Anne's County may realize increased sales resulting from the use of the BWLTL license.

Analysis

Current Law: In Queen Anne's County, the holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor, or a Class A beer and wine alcoholic beverages license may be issued a wine tasting (WT) alcoholic beverages license. The WT license authorizes on-premises consumption, for tasting and sampling purposes only, of wine that contains not more than 22% of alcohol by volume. The WT license holder may serve an individual up to two ounces of a given brand of wine and not more than four ounces from all brands to any one person in a single day. The annual fee for the WT license is \$100 in addition to the fee for any other alcoholic beverages license.

Background: In 2011, the Queen Anne's County Board of License Commissioners issued 27 Class A alcoholic beverages licenses and 14 WT licenses. There were 18 Class A beer, wine, and liquor licenses issued in Queen Anne's County in 2011.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Queen Anne's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2012
ncs/hlb Revised - Updated Information - February 21, 2012

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