

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 31 (Senator Pipkin)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

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, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Queen Anne's County alcoholic beverages license fee revenues increase minimally beginning in FY 2014 from issuance of BWLTL licenses at an annual fee of \$100. Any enforcement activities can be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal. 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, but since Class A license holders can already obtain a wine tasting (WT) license, the potential increase of sales from beer and liquor is negligible.

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 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 2012, the Queen Anne's County Board of License Commissioners issued 26 Class A alcoholic beverages licenses and 14 WT licenses. There were 17 Class A beer, wine, and liquor licenses issued in Queen Anne's County in 2012.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1062 of 2012 passed the House and received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 23, 2013
ncs/hlb

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