

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 647
Economic Matters

(Montgomery County Delegation)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Montgomery County - Town of Kensington - Beer and Wine Sampling or Tasting
MC 9-13

This bill authorizes the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners to issue up to three beer and wine sampling or tasting (BWST) licenses to a holder of a Class A license for holding beer and wine tastings or samplings in the Town of Kensington. An additional BWST license is subject to current law requirements applicable to other BWST licensees in Montgomery County.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: If all three BWST licenses are issued to qualified Class A licensees in the Town of Kensington, annual license fee revenue for Montgomery County increases by \$600.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. It is assumed that any BWST issued in the Town of Kensington will have a beneficial impact on the Class A license holder to whom the additional license was issued.

Analysis

Current Law: The Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners may issue a BWST license to a holder of a Class A license to hold tastings or samplings of beer or wine. A holder of a Class A license may use a BWST license to hold tastings or samplings of wine only. The annual license fee for a BWST license is \$200.

A BWST license authorizes sampling or tasting of alcoholic beverages only on the licensed premises of the holder of a Class A license. A licensee may allow consumption by a single individual for sampling or tasting purposes of not more than:

- 1 ounce from a single brand of wine;
- 4 ounces from all brands of wine in a single day;
- 3 ounces from a single brand of beer; and
- 12 ounces from all brands of beer in a single day.

Once opened, each bottle used for the beer and wine tasting or sampling must be marked that it is to be used for that purpose only. The BWST licensee must notify the board in writing at least seven days before each sampling or tasting event.

An application for a BWST license must be made on a form supplied by the board. A BWST license may be issued without a public hearing. If an initial application for a BWST license is denied, the applicant may request a public hearing before the board. The board may not require the publication of an application for a BWST license before issuing the license. A license renewal may be made at the time the holder's Class A license is renewed.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 21, 2013
mc/hlb

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