

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1091  
Economic Matters

(Howard County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer Festivals**  
**Ho. Co. 09-14**

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This bill authorizes the Howard County Board of License Commissioners to issue a special beer festival license to the holder of a current retail alcoholic beverages license issued in the State, a State Class 5 brewery license, a State Class 7 micro-brewery license, or a State Class 8 farm brewery license. The holder of a special beer festival license may display and sell at retail beer for consumption on or off the licensed premises on festival days and hours. The license fee is \$50 for a one- or two-day festival. The Board of License Commissioners must approve one weekend at an unlicensed premises in Howard County for the special beer festival and ensure that the primary focus of the festival is the promotion of Maryland beer. The bill does not preclude the licensee from holding another, different, alcoholic beverages license. The board must adopt regulations to implement the bill's provisions.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** A special beer festival license fee of \$50 does not materially affect Howard County revenues. Howard County can monitor licenses with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. Some licensed beer sellers in Howard County experience a minimal increase in beer sales as a result of festival participation.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** The Howard County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue a special wine festival (WF) license to a holder of an existing State retail alcoholic beverages license authorizing the sale of wine, a State Class 3 winery license, or a State Class 4 limited winery license. The special wine festival licensee is permitted to display and sell wine that is produced and processed in the State.

The special WF licensee may only display and sell wine at retail for consumption on or off the licensed premises on the days and for the hours designated for the wine festival. The license fee is \$15. The Howard County Board of License Commissioners must approve one weekend annually for the wine festival at a location in Howard County that does not hold an alcoholic beverages license. The weekend must not be the same date as other specified wine or beer and wine festivals in the State.

**Background:** A number of beer and wine festivals are held annually throughout the State. They are seen as advertising and publicity events for the businesses participating in the festival.

Beer festival licenses may be issued in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, St. Mary's, and Wicomico counties. Also, Allegany, Anne Arundel, Charles, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Worcester counties hold annual festivals that promote both beer and wine.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2014  
ncs/lgc Revised - House Third Reader - March 13, 2014

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Analysis by: Heather N. Ruby

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510