

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1271 (Delegate B. Wilson)
Rules and Executive Nominations

City of Hagerstown - Alcoholic Beverages - Outdoor Festivals

This bill authorizes the consumption of beer, wine, or liquor outdoors in a specified “festival location” in the City of Hagerstown if (1) the consumption occurs during a street festival during which the City of Hagerstown closes the festival location to vehicular traffic and (2) the beer, wine, or liquor is purchased from an establishment located in the festival location and for which an alcoholic beverages license has been issued.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill’s provisions are not anticipated to materially impact local finances or operations. Enforcement can be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but potential meaningful impact for small businesses licensed to sell alcoholic beverages located within the festival location who may realize an increase in economic activity as a result of the bill.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill defines “festival location” as the following portions of streets in the City of Hagerstown: (1) Potomac Street, from Franklin Street to Antietam Street; and (2) Washington Street, from Locust Street to Summit Avenue/Jonathan Street.

Current Law/Background: The City of Hagerstown advises that the intent of the bill is to improve economic interaction between street festivals and permanent establishments

located within the festival area. The city advises that, under current law, an individual who has purchased an alcoholic beverage inside an establishment may not take the beverage outside to the festival, nor may an individual bring alcoholic beverages purchased outside at the festival into an establishment. By permitting the outdoor consumption of alcoholic beverages purchased from an establishment within the festival area that holds an alcoholic beverages license, the city hopes to better integrate local businesses into the festival.

According to the city, as of March 19, 2015, there were 14 establishments located within the festival location for which an alcoholic beverages license had been issued.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 922 (Senator Serafini) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): City of Hagerstown, Washington County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 24, 2015
min/lgc

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