

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 818

(Senator Nathan-Pulliam, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Alcoholic Beverages - Baltimore City - Transfer or Issuance of Licenses

This bill authorizes the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) to issue a Class BWLT beer, wine, and liquor (on-premises) tasting license to a holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license in the 3000 block of Frederick Avenue in Ward 20, precinct 9 of Legislative District 44A in Baltimore City, based on the Legislative Districting Plan of 2012.

The bill also adds an exception to a prohibition against the transfer or issuance of a license within 300 feet of a church or school for a specified area in the 46th alcoholic beverages district near Cross Street Market if BLLC (1) has executed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a community organization in that area regarding the nature of the proposed establishment and (2) enforces the MOU as specified.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City alcoholic beverages license fee revenues increase by between \$20 and \$750 annually from the issuance of one new Class BWLT beer, wine, and liquor (on-premises) tasting license. Any additional fee revenue from the bill's other provisions cannot be readily identified or quantified. BLLC can implement the bill with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but potential meaningful for any new licensees. The bill's additional exception to a location prohibition in the 46th alcoholic beverages district may also be meaningful and beneficial to some current and future licensees.

Analysis

Current Law: BLLC may issue a Class BWLT beer, wine, and liquor (on-premises) tasting license to a holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license in the following areas of Baltimore City:

- Ward 27, precincts 42 and 44 of the 41st Legislative District;
- Ward 27, precincts 41 and 48 of the 43rd Legislative District; and
- Ward 11, precinct 5 of the 44th Legislative District.

The fees for a Class BWLT license are as follows:

- \$20 for a daily tasting license, which may be issued not more than 12 times in any annual license year;
- \$200 annually for a 26-day tasting license, which may be used consecutively or nonconsecutively;
- \$300 annually for a 52-day tasting license, which may be used consecutively or nonconsecutively; and
- \$750 annually for a tasting license that may be used daily throughout the year.

The fees for a Class BWLT license are in addition to the Class A annual license fee.

A Class BWLT license authorizes the holder to allow the on-premises consumption of beer, light wine, and liquor for tasting or sampling. A person may consume beer, light wine, or liquor covered by a Class BWLT license in a quantity not exceeding (1) one ounce of light wine from a given brand in a single day; (2) three ounces of beer from a given brand in a single day; and (3) one-half ounce of liquor from a given brand in a single day.

BLLC may not transfer or issue a license in the 46th alcoholic beverages district if the transfer or issuance would result in the licensed premises being located within 300 feet of the nearest point of a church or a school or closer to the nearest point of a church or a school than the licensed premises was on June 1, 2004. This prohibition does not apply to a licensed restaurant in Ward 4, precinct 1; Ward 22, precinct 1; or a specified residential planned unit development for Silo Point.

Background/Local Revenues: Baltimore City reports that there is one current Class A licensee in the 3000 block of Frederick Avenue interested in acquiring a Class BWLT license. Depending on which tasting license is actually sought and issued, annual license fee revenues increase by \$20, \$200, \$300, or \$750.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 13, 2015
min/lgc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 30, 2015

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