

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1550 (Washington County Delegation)
Rules and Executive Nominations

Washington County - Alcoholic Beverages - Hotel and Motel Licenses

This bill alters the requirements for a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license issued to a hotel or motel in Washington County. The bill also limits the license to on-sale privileges only and authorizes the Washington County Board of License Commissioners to adopt specified regulations.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Washington County operations or finances are not materially affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The board may issue the license to the owner of a hotel *or motel* that meets specified requirements. The hotel or motel is newly required to have a lobby with a registration and mail desk and seating facilities and a ballroom, conference room, or banquet room. The bill repeals the requirement that the facility have a dining room with facilities for preparing and serving regular meals for at least 125 individuals at one seating.

The license authorizes the license holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor at a hotel or restaurant at retail at the place described in the license, for on-premises consumption only, (1) through room service or otherwise to registered guests or (2) by the glass, bottle, or can to individuals attending an event in a ballroom, conference room, or banquet room.

The bill authorizes the board to adopt regulations for the license, including regulations that (1) provide for the manner of dispensing beer, wine, and liquor under the license; (2) provide for the hours and days of sale; and (3) limit the quantity of alcoholic beverages that may be sold to an individual as a single serving or during a 24-hour period.

Current Law: The Washington County Board of License Commissioners may issue a Class B BWL (on- and off-sale) hotel and restaurant license to the owner of a hotel that (1) is in a building at least three stories tall that was originally constructed for hotel purposes; (2) has a capital investment of at least \$500,000; and (3) contains at least one passenger elevator, at least 100 rooms to accommodate the public, and a dining room with facilities for preparing and serving regular meals for at least 125 individuals at one seating.

The license authorizes the license holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor at a hotel or restaurant at retail at the place described in the license, for on- and off-premises consumption. The hours of sale are Monday through Saturday, from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following day, and, with specified exceptions, on Sunday, from noon to midnight, if the additional Sunday permit fee is paid. The annual license fee is \$1,000, and the fee for a Sunday permit is \$250.

Background: Washington County advises that eight hotels currently hold a Class B BWL license, and that all eight purchase the Sunday permit. In fiscal 2015, 194 alcoholic beverages licenses were issued for use in Washington County, including 74 Class B BWL licenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 1079 (Washington County Senators) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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min/hlb

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