

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 791
Economic Matters

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

Carroll County - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer, Wine, and Liquor Tasting License

This bill establishes a beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) tasting license in Carroll County. The Carroll County Board of License Commissioners may issue the license to a holder of a beer, wine, and liquor license. The license authorizes the holder and the holder of a solicitor's permit to allow the consumption of beer, wine, and liquor for tasting by a customer or an employee of the license holder, if the customer or the employee is not charged. The license is valid during business hours. The annual license fee is \$150.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Carroll County revenues decrease minimally as a result of licensees who currently purchase separate beer, wine, and liquor tasting licenses purchasing one BWL tasting license instead. Oversight of licenses is not effected.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal savings for small businesses who are currently required to purchase three separate tasting licenses.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The board is required to regulate (1) the quantity of beer served to each individual; (2) the number of bottles or other containers of beer from which the quantity is served; (3) the size of the containers; (4) the quantity of wine served to each individual; and (5) the number of bottles of wine from which the quantity is served. An individual

may consume liquor at a liquor tasting in a quantity of up to one-half ounce from each offering of liquor, and five offerings in one day.

Current Law:

Beer Tasting License

The board may issue a beer tasting license to a holder of a beer and wine (BW) license or a BWL license. The license authorizes the holder to allow the consumption of beer for tasting if the consumer is not charged for the beer. The board must regulate (1) the quantity of beer served to each individual; (2) the number of bottles or other containers of beer from which this quantity is served; and (3) the size of the containers. The annual license fee is \$100.

Wine Tasting License

The board may issue a wine tasting license to a holder of a BW license or BWL license. The license authorizes the holder to allow the consumption of wine for tasting if the consumer is not charged for the wine. The board must regulate (1) the quantity of wine served to each individual and (2) the number of bottles of wine from which this quantity is served. The annual license fee is \$100.

Liquor Tasting License

The board may issue a liquor tasting license to a holder of a Class A BWL license. The license authorizes the holder to allow the consumption of liquor for tasting if the consumer is not charged for the liquor. An individual may consume liquor at a tasting in a quantity not more than one-half ounce from each offering of liquor and five offerings in one day. A license is valid for up to 52 days a year and may be used on consecutive or nonconsecutive days. The annual license fee is \$100.

Background: In fiscal 2015, 17 BW licenses and 126 BWL licenses, including 40 Class A BWL licenses, were issued for use in Carroll County.

Local Revenues: Carroll County revenues decrease by \$50 for every BWL tasting license purchased to replace two tasting licenses issued under the current scheme and by \$150 for every BWL tasting license purchased to replace three licenses issued under the current scheme. Carroll County advises that there are currently 55 holders of the three tasting licenses currently available in Carroll County, and that total annual revenue from these licenses is approximately \$5,500.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 746 (Senator Ready, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2016
md/hlb

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