

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 682

(Senator Edwards)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Garrett County - Alcoholic Beverages - Sunday Sales

This bill submits to a referendum of the qualified voters of election districts or precincts of election districts 2, 3-1, 12, and 16 in Garrett County, at the November 2016 general election, a question of whether to authorize specified Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages for *off-premises consumption* in the applicable district or precinct. The bill also submits to a referendum of the qualified voters of election districts or precincts of election districts 4, 8-1, 8-2, 13, and 14-2 in Garrett County, at the November 2016 general election, a question of whether to authorize specified Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages for *on- and off-premises consumption* in the applicable district or precinct. The Garrett County Board of License Commissioners must provide to the Department of Legislative Services, by December 1, 2016, a complete list of all election districts and precincts in Garrett County in which Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages are authorized. Those districts and precincts must then be listed in a specified location in the Annotated Code of Maryland by the publishers of the Code.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016, for the sole purpose of providing for the referendum. If the specified Sunday sales are approved in an election district or precinct of an election district, the authority for such sales becomes effective December 15, 2016, in that district or precinct.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Garrett County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but potential meaningful positive impact for any small business able to make additional sales as a result of changes to the existing restrictions.

Analysis

Current Law: In Garrett County, Sunday sales for on-premises consumption are only permitted in election districts 1, 2, 3-1, 3-2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14-1, 15, and 16. Where authorized, Sunday sales may begin at 1 p.m. and continue until 10 p.m. The Sunday sales for on-premises consumption privilege may be added, by paying a \$250 fee, by holders of a Class B license, a Class C service club license, a special Class C license, or a Class D license.

Sunday sales for off-premises consumption are only permitted in election districts 1, 3-2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14-1, and 15. Where authorized, Sunday sales may begin at 1 p.m. and continue until 10 p.m. The Sunday sales for off-premises consumption privilege may be added, by paying a \$250 fee, by holders of a Class A license, Class B license, a special Class C license, or a Class D license.

Background: In fiscal 2015, 74 alcoholic beverages licenses were issued in Garrett County. In fiscal 2014, Garrett County advised that 33 Class B licenses and 38 Class D licenses were issued in Garrett County. Of those Class D licenses, four license holders were permitted to make Sunday sales. There were also 10 special Class C licenses issued in Garrett County in fiscal 2014, only 1 of which included a Sunday.

Small Business Effect: Small businesses in the affected election districts/precincts may substantially benefit from additional revenue generated from Sunday sales.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1028 (Delegate Beitzel) - Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2016
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