

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 780

(Delegate Lisanti)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Alcoholic Beverages - Brewing Company Off-Site Permits - Harford County
Farm Fair

This bill adds the Harford County Farm Fair to the list of off-site events for which a holder of a brewing company off-site permit may use the permit. The bill also authorizes the Comptroller's Office to determine the time period during which a brewing company off-site permit holder is required to notify the Comptroller of the permit holder's intention to attend an off-site event.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially impact State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially impact local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law:

Brewing Company Off-site Permit

The Comptroller may issue a brewing company off-site permit to a Class 5 brewery, a Class 7 micro-brewery, or a Class 8 farm brewery. The permit authorizes a holder, during

an eligible event, to (1) provide to a consumer a sample of beer that has been produced by the permit holder and that may not exceed one fluid ounce for each offering; (2) sell to a consumer up to 288 ounces of beer produced by the permit holder for off-premises consumption; and (3) except for specified farmers' markets, sell to a consumer up to 288 ounces of beer produced by the permit holder for on- and off-premises consumption.

Eligible Events

With the exception of attending a specified nonprofit beer festival, a brewing company off-site permit holder may use the permit only:

- at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair;
- at the Maryland State Agricultural Fair;
- at the Frederick County Agricultural Fair;
- one night each week from June through November at the North Beach Friday Night Farmers' Market;
- for up to seven events, at an event that has as its major purpose an activity that is other than the sale and promotion of alcoholic beverages, and for which the participation of a brewing company is a subordinate activity; and
- at other farmers' markets that are listed on the Farmers' Market Directory of the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

Prior Authorization

By the twentieth day of the month preceding the off-site event, the permit holder must notify the Comptroller of the permit holder's intention to attend an off-site event on a form provided by the Comptroller.

Background: Generally, the Harford County Farm Fair is an annual event celebrating Harford County's agricultural heritage. The fair feature rides, farm animals, and food, among other attractions.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Harford County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2017
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