

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 1111  
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)

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Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Volunteer Fire Department  
License

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This bill authorizes the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners to issue a Class C (volunteer fire department) beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license for use by a volunteer fire department. The license authorizes the licensee to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption at the place described in the license and during the days and hours set out for a Class C BWL license. The annual license fee is \$910. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Prince George's County revenues increase by approximately \$17,710 in FY 2020 and \$10,010 annually thereafter from application and licensing fees. Prince George's County can likely handle any enforcement activity with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** In Maryland, Class C BWL licenses generally authorize clubs and other organizations to sell or provide alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption. In Prince George's County, the board issues various Class C BWL licenses for use by nonprofit fraternal, sororal, and service organizations; veterans' organizations and clubs; country clubs; golf clubs; and yacht clubs. The hours of sale for a Class C BWL license in

Prince George's County are 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following day. A Class C BWL licensee in Prince George's County generally may not sell beer, wine, or liquor at a bar or counter on Sunday.

Generally, for a premises that is licensed to sell alcoholic beverages with an off-sale privilege, or a premises that is licensed with on-sale privileges and sells alcoholic beverages directly to a customer from a bar or service bar, the license holder or specified employees must complete training in an approved alcohol awareness program in order to obtain and retain their alcoholic beverages license. The training program must be approved and certified by the Comptroller and it must provide information on how alcohol affects a person's body and behavior, the dangers of drinking and driving, refusing service before a customer becomes intoxicated, and determining if a customer is old enough to legally consume alcohol. The training is valid for four years.

**Background:** According to the Comptroller's Office, in fiscal 2018, there were 622 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Prince George's County. Prince George's County advises that there are 37 volunteer fire and rescue corporations in the county.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The board charges a \$700 application filing fee for an alcoholic beverages license of any class. The annual license fee for a Class C (volunteer fire department) BWL license is \$910. For each Class C (volunteer fire department) BWL license issued, Prince George's County revenues increase by \$1,610 at the time of application and \$910 annually thereafter.

The board estimates that 11 eligible volunteer fire and rescue corporations will apply for a license under the bill. Accordingly, Prince George's County revenues increase by an estimated \$17,710 in fiscal 2020 and \$10,010 annually thereafter.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Comptroller's Office; Prince George's County; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2019  
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