

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 353

(Frederick County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Theater Licenses - Seating Capacity

This bill repeals the requirement in Frederick County that a theater must seat no more than 200 individuals per performance in order to be eligible for a Class C (theater) beer and wine license. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Frederick County revenues increase by at least \$100 annually from additional licensing fees. Frederick County can monitor any additional licenses with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. A theater that is newly eligible for and obtains a license under the bill may realize an increase in sales.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 634 of 2016 renamed the Class C (Maryland Ensemble Theatre) beer and wine license as the Class C (theater) license and expanded license eligibility to include a theater that seats 200 or fewer individuals per performance. In order to obtain the license, the president and two other officers of the theater must sign the license application, and at least two signers must be residents of Frederick County. The license authorizes the licensee to sell beer and wine for on-premises consumption from one hour before to one hour after a regular performance or fundraiser performance that benefits the theater. The annual license fee is \$100.

Background: Frederick County advises that there is one active Class C (theater) license in the county, and the license is issued for use by the Maryland Ensemble Theatre.

Local Fiscal Effect: The annual license fee for a Class C (theater) license is \$100. The county anticipates issuing at least one new Class C (theater) license under the bill. Accordingly, Frederick County revenues increase by at least \$100 annually.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2019
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