

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 345
Economic Matters

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Montgomery County – Damascus – Alcoholic Beverages Licenses MC 9–19

This bill repeals an obsolete reference to the country inn zone of Montgomery County and clarifies that the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners may issue an unlimited number of Class H beer and wine (BW), hotel and restaurant licenses in Damascus (12th election district). **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The changes are technical or clarifying in nature.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Chapter 133 of 2012, approved at referendum by the voters of Damascus, authorized the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners to issue Class H-BW licenses for use in hotels and restaurants in Damascus. The board may not issue a Class H-BW license for use in any Damascus restaurant in which pool tables, billiard tables, shuffleboards, dart boards, video games, pinball machines, or other recreational devices are used. Class H-BW licensees in Damascus may serve alcoholic beverages only to seated patrons.

Chapter 41 of 2016 revised, restated, and recodified the laws of the State that relate to alcoholic beverages. During the code revision process, every effort is made to ensure that a proposed revision conforms as nearly as possible to the intent of the General Assembly, and all these revisions are highlighted in the revisor’s notes.

The revisor's note for § 25-1603 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article indicates that specified passages pertaining to the issuance of Class H-BW licenses in Damascus were derived without substantive change from former provisions. However, the revised passages do not reflect the expansion of the Class H-BW license adopted prior to the 2016 recodification.

In Montgomery County, a Class H-BW license authorizes the holder to sell beer and wine for on-premises consumption Monday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following day. The annual license fee is \$400. Montgomery County advises that six Class H-BW licenses are currently issued in Damascus.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2019
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