

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 325

(Senators Young and Hough)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Basket of Cheer

This bill authorizes the Frederick County Board of License Commissioners to issue a basket of cheer permit, at no cost, to a Class C per diem beer and wine (BW) licensee or a Class C per diem beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) licensee. The permit authorizes the permit holder to provide, as a prize at a benefit performance, a “basket of cheer” of alcoholic beverages produced in Maryland for off-premises consumption. A basket may contain up to 288 ounces of beer and 2.25 liters of wine. For a Class C per diem BWL licensee, a basket may also contain up to 2.25 liters of liquor. A permit holder may raffle up to 10 baskets of cheer per benefit performance. The bill specifies that a permit holder may obtain alcoholic beverages for a basket of cheer only from a licensed alcoholic beverages retailer. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

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

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law/Background:

Class C Per Diem Licenses, Generally

Local licensing boards may generally issue per diem licenses that authorize the sale and serving of alcoholic beverages for limited, specified periods. Generally, a Class C per diem BW or BWL license authorizes a licensee to exercise the privileges of the class of license for use at a club-sponsored entertainment event, at the place described in the license, for a period of up to seven consecutive days. A Class C per diem licensee generally may purchase alcoholic beverages only from a licensed retailer. However, a specified Class C per diem beer or BW licensee may, subject to specified limitations, purchase beer and/or wine directly from a licensed wholesaler.

Issuance of Class C Per Diem Licenses in Frederick County

In Frederick County, an applicant may obtain a Class C per diem or multiday beer, BW, or BWL license. The board may not issue a single applicant Class C per diem or multiday beer or BW licenses for use on more than 50 days per calendar year. Similarly, the board may not issue a single applicant Class C per diem or multiday BWL licenses for use on more than 50 days per calendar year. The daily fee for a Class C per diem or multiday beer or BW license is \$10, and the daily fee for a Class C per diem or multiday BWL license is \$30.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 447 (Frederick County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 7, 2019
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