

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 955

(Senator Hershey)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Kent County Alcoholic Beverages Act of 2019

This bill alters specified provisions of law relating to Class D beer, wine, and liquor (BWL), Class B (country inn) BWL, and theater BWL licenses in Kent County. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially impact Kent County finances or operations. Any additional inspections can likely be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: Under current law, holders of Class D BWL licenses in Kent County are authorized to sell beer, wine, and liquor at retail for on-premises consumption. On Sunday, the license holder may sell only beer and wine for off-premises consumption. The bill authorizes holders of Class D BWL licenses in Kent County to sell beer, wine, and liquor at retail for both on- and off-premises consumption throughout the week.

Under current law, the Kent County Board of License Commissioners may issue a Class B (country inn) BWL license to country inns meeting specified criteria, including that the inn has no more than *10 rooms* used for public sleeping accommodations. The bill expands the maximum number of rooms for a qualifying country inn to 15 rooms.

Under current law, the board may issue a theater BWL license to theaters meeting specified criteria, including theaters that have a capacity to hold at least 150 permanently installed seats and regularly present live entertainment. The license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor (1) for two hours before the entertainment begins; (2) during the entertainment; and (3) for one hour after the entertainment ends. Under the bill, the board is authorized to issue a theater BWL license to theaters having a capacity to hold at least 100 permanently installed seats and regularly provide live *or cinematic* entertainment. The bill authorizes the license holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor when the theater is open to the public *except from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.*

Background: In fiscal 2018, 48 alcoholic beverages licenses were issued in Kent County. As of March 2019, there were 2 Class D BWL licenses, 1 Class B (country inn) BWL license, and 2 theater BWL licenses issued in the county.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1335 (Delegate Jacobs, *et al.*) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): Kent County; Comptroller's Office; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2019
an/tso Third Reader - March 15, 2019

Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510