

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 198
Economic Matters

(Wicomico County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Wicomico County - Alcoholic Beverages - Basket of Cheer Permit

This bill establishes a basket of cheer permit in Wicomico County. The bill authorizes the Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners to issue basket of cheer permits to qualifying nonprofit organizations that hold either a Class C per diem beer and wine (BW) license or a Class C per diem beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license. A permit holder is authorized to provide a basket of cheer as a prize, as specified. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: This bill is not anticipated to materially affect Wicomico County finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: For a basket of cheer permit holder that holds a Class C per diem BW license, the basket of cheer prize can contain up to 288 ounces of beer and 2.25 liters of wine. For a permit holder that holds a Class C per diem BWL license, the prize can contain up to 288 ounces of beer, 2.25 liters of wine, and 2.25 liters of liquor. The alcoholic beverages contained in the basket of cheer must only be consumed off-premises.

The permit fee for the holder of a Class C per diem BW license is \$30 per event. The permit fee for the holder of a Class C per diem BWL license is \$45 per event.

Current Law: Local licensing boards are granted general authority to issue per diem licenses allowing the sale and serving of alcoholic beverages for limited periods of time. A Class C per diem license authorizes the sale of beer, wine, or liquor (depending on the license) for a period of up to seven days. The license may only be used to hold an entertainment event conducted by a club at a specific place described in the license. Any alcoholic beverages sold using a Class C per diem BWL license must have been purchased from a retail dealer.

Background: In fiscal 2018, there were 15 Class C BWL licenses in Wicomico County. There were no Class C BW licenses issued in Wicomico County in fiscal 2018.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 6 (Senator Eckardt) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 24, 2019
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Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

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