

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 438

(Charles County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

Charles County - Alcoholic Beverages - Golf Course Privilege

---

This bill repeals the Class GC (golf course) alcoholic beverages license in Charles County and establishes the Class GC privilege. The Class GC privilege expands the licensed premises to include the golf course. Holders of the Class GC privilege are permitted to sell alcoholic beverages on the golf course if they hold an alcoholic beverages license of another type, as specified. The annual fee for the Class GC privilege is \$200. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

---

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Charles County revenues increase minimally based on the number of Class GC privileges issued as a result of the bill. Monitoring any additional Class GC privileges issued can be handled using existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal overall but potentially meaningful for any small business that obtains a Class GC privilege as a result of the bill.

---

Analysis

**Bill Summary:** To qualify for a Class GC privilege, the owner or operator of a public or private golf course must also hold one of the following classes of alcoholic beverages licenses: Class B, Class BLX, Class C, Class D, Class H, or an entertainment facility license.

**Current Law:** The holder of a Class GC (golf course) license is authorized to sell alcoholic beverages authorized under the license for consumption on the premises of a publicly or privately owned golf course.

**Background:** In fiscal 2018, there were 175 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Charles County. As of February 2019, there were three Class GC licenses issued in the county.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Charles County revenues increase by \$200 annually for each Class GC privilege issued under the bill. As there are three qualifying golf courses in Charles County, county revenues are expected to increase \$600 annually. Any increase in inspections and enforcement activity can likely be absorbed with existing resources.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2019  
mm/tso Third Reader - March 19, 2019

---

Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

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