

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 298
Economic Matters

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Montgomery County - Alcoholic Beverages - Hours of Consumption
MC 09-20

This bill alters the hours of consumption for specified alcoholic beverages licenses in Montgomery County. Unless otherwise provided, an individual may consume alcoholic beverages in a premises licensed in the county only during the hours of sale permitted under the license of the premises. The bill clarifies a license holder must remove all containers of alcoholic beverages from the tables and bar service area in the licensed premises at the end of the license holder's permitted hours of sale. The bill repeals a specified permit the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners may issue and also makes conforming changes by repealing obsolete provisions relating to the hours of sale of alcoholic beverages. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect Montgomery County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, an individual may not consume alcoholic beverages in a licensed premises in Montgomery County from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. on any day. The board is authorized to issue a permit to authorize a license holder to sell alcoholic beverages for

on-premises consumption until 2 a.m. on January 1, if the license holder applies to the board for the permit at least 60 days in advance.

For Class H beer; Class B, Class D, or Class H beer and wine; or Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses, an individual may not consume alcoholic beverages in a licensed premises from 1:30 a.m. to the time when the license holder may begin daily sales under the license. The license holder must remove all containers of alcoholic beverages from tables on the licensed premises (1) before 1:30 a.m., Sunday through Thursday and (2) before 2:30 a.m., Friday and Saturday.

Background: In fiscal 2019, there were 1,033 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Montgomery County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2020
mr/tso Third Reader - March 4, 2020

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