

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1151
Economic Matters

(Howard County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Howard County - Class A Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Quota by Election
District
Ho. Co. 02-21

This bill modifies the maximum number of Class A licenses of any type that the Howard County Board of License Commissioners may issue, as specified. The bill must be construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to a Class A license issued before the effective date. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Howard County can handle the bill's requirements with existing resources. Revenues are not affected, as discussed below.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The board may issue up to six Class A licenses in each election district in the county. The board may issue more than six Class A licenses in any election district provided that the total number of Class A licenses in any election district does not exceed one Class A license of any type for every 4,000 residents of the election district.

Current Law: The board may issue one license for every 4,000 residents countywide, as determined by the latest federal census.

In Howard County, limitations on the number of Class A licenses the board may issue do not apply to a Class A license issued for use in an existing shopping center (or proposed shopping center development) for which a building permit has been issued that contains 200,000 or more square feet of commercial retail space.

Local Revenues: The bill sets the maximum number of Class A licenses the board may issue at six per election district, but also allows the board to exceed that limit as long as the total number of licenses in a district do not exceed one per every 4,000 residents. In practice, this means that each election district may have one license per every 4,000 residents as no district in the county has fewer than 24,000 residents. This new calculation does not materially change the maximum number of Class A licenses that the board would be able to issue in the county; therefore, Howard County's Class A license fee revenues are not anticipated to increase under the bill.

In fiscal 2020, Howard County issued a total of 62 Class A licenses (all of which were beer, wine, and liquor licenses). The bill applies only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to a Class A license issued before the effective date.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2021
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