

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 287
Economic Matters

(Delegate Johnson)

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Resort Complex License

This bill establishes a resort complex license in Harford County. The Harford County Board of License Commissioners may issue one resort complex license to the person owning, leasing, or operating a resort complex. The license authorizes the license holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor from specified locations in the resort complex at specified times depending on the location. A resort complex license is exempt from any quota or restriction on off-sale licenses issued for the election district in which the resort complex is located. Areas in a resort complex may be excluded from the portion of the property that is considered to be the licensed premises. A person other than the resort complex license holder may obtain a different class of license for an area excluded. A resort complex for which the license is issued is subject to alcohol awareness training requirements, as specified. The initial license fee is \$3,500. Beginning May 1, 2022, the annual license fee is \$6,000. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Harford County revenues increase by \$3,500 in FY 2022 and \$6,000 annually thereafter assuming one resort complex license is issued. Expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but potential meaningful for a resort complex in Harford County that obtains a license under the bill.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Resort complex” means a parcel or contiguous parcels of land of at least 10 acres; under common ownership; and with facilities that (1) include lodging, conference spaces, meeting spaces, active outdoor open spaces, waterfront beach activities, or a marina; (2) serve the public; and (3) resulted in a capital investment of at least \$500,000 exclusive of the cost of land.

A resort complex license holder is authorized to sell beer, wine, and liquor from (1) one or more outlets in the resort complex that may be consumed in conjunction with recreation or the playing of music and dancing in designated locations in the resort complex; (2) one or more outlets in the resort complex that operate as a restaurant; (3) bars or counters at one or more locations in the resort complex for on-premises consumption; (4) one designated outlet in the resort complex for culinary education and entertainment which may include off-premises consumption; and (5) one designated outlet in the resort complex for off-premises consumption.

A resort complex license holder may serve alcoholic beverages (1) at one or more outside outlets in the resort complex from 6 a.m. to midnight on Monday through Sunday; (2) at one or more inside outlets in the resort complex from 6 a. m. to 2 a.m. the following day on Monday through Saturday, and from 6 a.m. to midnight on Sunday; and (3) at one designated outlet for off-premises consumption from 6 a. m. to 2 a.m. the following day on Monday through Saturday, and from 6 a.m. to midnight on Sunday.

Local Fiscal Effect: Harford County advises there is currently only *one* establishment in the county that meets the requirements necessary to obtain a resort complex license. Therefore, Harford County revenues increase by an estimated \$3,500 in fiscal 2022 from initial license fees received from one resort complex license and by \$6,000 annually thereafter from annual license fees received after May 1, 2022.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1272 of 2020 passed in the House but received no further action from the Senate Education, Health, and Environment Affairs Committee.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Harford County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 2021
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