

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 927

(Senator Hayes, *et al.*)

Finance

Government, Labor, and Elections

Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Related Event Promoter's Permit

This bill authorizes the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners to issue a related event promoter's permit that authorizes a "related event promoter" or participating license holder to conduct a social event related to and around the same time and location as the Kappa Alpha Psi Conclave. The bill specifies requirements, restrictions, fees, and penalties applicable to the permit and authorizes the board to adopt regulations establishing requirements for conducting and providing public notice of a specified related event. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026, and terminates December 31, 2027.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners can likely handle monitoring and enforcement with existing resources. Baltimore City revenues may increase minimally in FY 2027 through 2028 from application and permit fees to the extent permits are issued under the bill.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary:

Definitions

"Related event" means an event related to the Kappa Alpha Psi Conclave in which (1) a license holder participates in a coordinated promotion with a third-party promoter to sell

or provide alcoholic beverages during a specified time and (2) at least 75 individuals are reasonably anticipated to participate. It includes an event for which tickets are sold to the public, either in advance or at the door, or a cover charge is imposed, including a concert, an entertainment event, a happy hour, or a party.

“Related event promoter” means an individual, a for-profit organization, or a nonprofit organization that promotes an event related to the Kappa Alpha Psi Conclave.

Application Process

A related event promoter or participating license holder on behalf of a related event promoter must apply for a permit from the board before the related event promoter may publicize, sell tickets for, organize, operate, produce, or stage a related event. A holder of a State caterer’s license must obtain a Class C per diem beer, beer and wine, or beer, wine, and liquor license from the board before the holder may act as a participating license holder at a related event.

The board may grant a permit to an applicant who submits an application at least 30 days before the date of the related event. Before being granted the permit, an applicant must (1) obtain written consent from a designee of Visit Baltimore and (2) if required, based on the type of premises to be used, obtain a special event permit from the Baltimore City Department of Transportation and provide a copy of the special event permit to the board. An applicant must also provide a completed application that (1) is dated and notarized; (2) lists each premises for which the related event will be held; and (3) includes any other document that the board requires. An individual need not be a resident of or registered voter in Baltimore City to be eligible for the permit.

Within 7 days of receipt of a permit application, the board must grant or deny the permit or request additional information from the applicant. A permit may not be altered within 14 days before the scheduled related event.

Permit Fees

The application fee for a permit is \$50. The permit fee is payable when the permit is granted and is either \$500 or \$1,500, contingent on whether the Baltimore City Fire Marshal determines that the maximum capacity of the proposed event location is less than 300 people or if the capacity is 300 or more people, respectively.

Penalties for Violations

For the offense of publicizing, selling tickets, or imposing a cover charge for, organizing, operating, producing, facilitating, or staging a related event with the knowledge or reason to know that a related event promoter’s permit has not been obtained, the board must impose a fine of at least \$1,000 and up to \$3,000 or suspend the license or both.

For a violation of the bill's requirement that a State caterer's licensee obtain a Class C per diem license before acting as a participating license holder at a related event, the Executive Director of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission must impose a fine of at least \$1,000 and up to \$3,000 and/or suspend the State caterer's license.

Current Law: State law authorizes local boards of license commissioners to issue special alcoholic beverages licenses for use during specified periods. Chapter 764 of 2019 authorized the board to issue a related event promoter's permit for social events related to and around the same time and location as the CIAA Basketball Tournament. Chapter 391 of 2023 extended the termination date of the related event promoter's permit to June 30, 2025, and updated the application process and certain definitions associated with the permit.

Additional Comments: The Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. 2027 Conclave is set to be held in Baltimore City in July 2027.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2026
jg/tso Third Reader - March 6, 2026

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