

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 563
Finance

(Frederick County Senators)

Economic Matters

Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Weinberg Center/New Spires Arts
Stages Beer, Wine, and Liquor License

This bill renames the Class C (Weinberg Center) beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license as the Class C (Weinberg Center/New Spires Art Stages) BWL license and authorizes the Frederick County Board of License Commissioners to issue the license for use by the Weinberg Center for the Arts at the New Spires Arts Stages. The manager of the Weinberg Center for the Arts or the New Spires Arts Stages, or another municipal official designated by the Mayor of the City of Frederick, must sign the license application. Beer, wine, and liquor may be sold for one hour before to one hour after (1) a performance; (2) a fundraiser that benefits the Weinberg Center for the Arts or the New Spires Arts Stages; or (3) an event hosted by an outside group that has rented either facility. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Frederick County revenues decrease by approximately \$375 annually beginning in FY 2025 from the issuance of one Class C (Weinberg Center/New Spires Art Stages) BWL license, as discussed below. Frederick County can handle any additional enforcement activity using existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law:

Class C (Weinberg Center) License

A Class C (Weinberg Center) BWL license authorizes the nonprofit Weinberg Center for the Arts to sell beer, wine, and liquor at retail to a customer on the licensed premises. Beer, wine, and liquor may be sold for one hour before to one hour after a performance or a fundraiser that benefits the Weinberg Center for the Arts. The annual license fee is \$325.

The president and two other officers of the Weinberg Center for the Arts must sign the application for the license. At least two of the officers must be residents of the county.

Local Fiscal Effect: Frederick County will issue one additional Class C (Weinberg Center/New Spires Art Stages) BWL license to the New Spires Art Stages under the bill. Frederick County advises that the board currently issues multiple Class C *per diem* BWL licenses to New Spires Art Stage each year, collecting approximately \$700 annually. The annual license fee for the permanent Class C (Weinberg Center/New Spires Art Stages) BWL license is \$325; therefore, revenues decrease by approximately \$375 annually beginning in fiscal 2025. However, the board advises the permanent license authorized by the bill could create administrative efficiencies to the extent it reduces the number of *per diem* licenses issued by the board.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 586 (Frederick County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2024
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