

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 735
Finance

(Harford County Senators)

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class L License

This bill establishes a Class L beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license in Harford County and authorizes the Harford County Board of License Commissioners to issue the license to the holder of a manufacturer's license. The license holder may sell BWL for on-premises consumption, that is produced by the holder or another holder of a manufacturer's license issued and held in Harford County and that may be mixed with other BWL that is produced or manufactured in the county or nonalcoholic products, regardless of where the nonalcoholic products are produced or manufactured. The annual license fee is \$3,000. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Harford County revenues increase to the extent the board issues Class L BWL licenses under this bill. Harford County can handle any additional enforcement activity with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but potentially meaningful for any small business manufacturers that obtain a Class L BWL license under the bill.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A Class L BWL license holder must retain, for two years after the date of purchase, invoices and any records of the purchase of any alcoholic beverages not manufactured by the license holder. A license holder is not required to sell food but is required to provide prepackaged snacks.

The hours of sale for a Class L BWL license are the same as those for the underlying manufacturer's license.

A license holder may hold another license or permit issued by the board to sell products the license holder produces to the extent the license holder is authorized under the holder's manufacturer's license.

Local Fiscal Effect: The annual license fee for a Class L BWL license is \$3,000. Harford County estimates that up to four breweries within the county may obtain Class L BWL licenses in fiscal 2025. Therefore, Harford County license fee revenues increase by up to \$12,000 beginning in fiscal 2025.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 623 (Harford County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2024
rh/tso

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