

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 810 (Senator McFadden)  
Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages (Baltimore Wine Festival)**

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This bill authorizes the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners to issue a special Baltimore Wine Festival license to a holder of a State retail alcoholic beverages license, Class 3 winery license, or Class 4 winery license. A holder may sell wine at retail for consumption on the days and hours designated for the festival. The license fee is \$15. The board may select one weekend annually for the festival, and the location may not hold an alcoholic beverages license.

The bill is effective July 1, 1997.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Baltimore City revenues could increase depending upon the number of wine festival licenses issued by the Board of License Commissioners. Although the number of licenses cannot be determined beforehand, the revenue increase would be minimal (less than \$5,000). The board could monitor the licensees with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal effect on small businesses as discussed below.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Small Business Effect:** In 1996 there were approximately 1,500 retail alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Baltimore City and nine Class 4 winery licenses issued throughout the State. No Class 3 wineries existed as of 1996. Although the number of such licensees that are small businesses is unknown, a vast majority would fall into that category. If the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners holds a wine festival, small business

licensees that participate could benefit from additional wine sales and more exposure of their establishments. These licensees would also experience a minimal increase in costs due to the license fee.

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**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 1997

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