

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1136 (Delegate Boston)

Economic Matters

Referred to Economic and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages (Issuance and Transfer of Licenses)

This enrolled 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. A license may not be issued in Election District 47A.

The bill also prohibits new Class B licenses from being issued in the 47th Alcoholic Beverages District. Except for Class C beer, wine, and liquor licenses, a license may not be transferred within the 47th Alcoholic Beverages District. These provisions are effective June 1, 1997.

With one exception, the bill is effective July 1, 1997.

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.

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.

The bill could also benefit existing licensees in the 47th Alcoholic Beverages District by limiting the amount of competition within the district.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 1997

lc Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 6, 1997

Analysis by: Thomas Himler

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710