

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 700 (Senator Hafer)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Garrett County - Alcoholic Beverages - Micro-Breweries

This bill authorizes a Class 7 micro-brewery licensee in Garrett County to sell beer at retail to customers for consumption off the licensed premises in refillable containers that are sealed by the micro-brewery at the time of each refill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The Garrett County Board of License Commissioners could monitor any micro-breweries established in Garrett County with existing resources. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful impact on future businesses.

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: Currently, there are 15 micro-breweries operating in Maryland. The micro-brewery and pub-brewery industry generates between \$10 million and \$15 million in revenues annually, including the restaurant businesses. According to the Comptroller's Office, micro-breweries produced approximately 276,000 gallons of beer in fiscal 1996 and 383,200 gallons in fiscal 1997.

There are currently no micro-breweries in Garrett County although one is planned to be built. There is a potential meaningful impact to future businesses to the extent that the ability to sell to customers for off-premises consumption encourages the establishment of micro-breweries in Garrett County.

Information Source(s): Garrett County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 1998

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