

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 720 (Senators Derr and Ferguson)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Jefferson Election District**

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This bill allows licenses to be issued for the sale of beer and light wine or beer, wine, and liquor in the 14th (Jefferson) Election District of Frederick County. For the bill to become effective, it must be submitted to a referendum and approved by the legally qualified voters in the 14th (Jefferson) Election District at the November 1998 general election. Under current law, only licenses for the sale of beer are allowed to be issued in the Jefferson Election District.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Any costs associated with submitting the bill to a referendum could be handled with existing resources of the Frederick County board of elections. If the referendum is approved by voters, Frederick County revenues could increase by a minimal amount.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful effect on small businesses.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Effect:** There are currently two beer only licensees in the 14th District. Should the voters of the 14th District approve the referendum and these licensees apply for a beer and wine or beer, wine, and liquor license, Frederick County revenues would increase by \$2,570 annually. This estimate is based on the current fee for these beer only licenses \$100 (off-premise) and \$130 (on-premise) increasing to \$1,300 and \$1,500 respectively for a beer and wine or beer, wine, and liquor license.

**Small Business Effect:** Should the voters of the 14th District approve the referendum, beer

only licensees could apply for a license to sell wine and liquor in addition to beer. Businesses which apply for and receive a license could be impacted favorably through the additional profits which could be generated through the sale of wine, or wine and liquor. There is a potential meaningful impact to future businesses to the extent that the ability to sell wine and liquor in the 14th District encourages more businesses to open in this area.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 11, 1998

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