

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 312 (Delegate Arnick. *et al.*)
Economic Matters

Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages - Additional Class B Licenses

This bill changes the seating capacity requirement and the percentage of alcoholic beverage sales necessary for a restaurant to qualify for a fourth Class B, beer, wine, and liquor license. Currently, a restaurant must have a minimum seating capacity of 250 persons for dining and less than 15% of its total sales in alcohol in order to qualify for a fourth license. This bill lowers the required seating capacity to 190 and raises the percentage of sales in alcohol to no more than 20% of total sales.

This bill is effective June 1, 1998.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill would not increase the number of Class B licenses available, therefore no additional revenue would be generated from licensing fees. Monitoring of licensees could be handled with the existing resources of the board of license commissioners.

Small Business Effect: Minimal effect on small businesses.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Effect: There are no more Class B, beer, wine, and liquor licenses available in Baltimore County. A restaurant or hotel seeking a fourth license and meeting the bill's seating capacity and sales criteria, would have to obtain an existing license by purchasing the license from another Class B licensee. Currently, there are 260 Class B, beer, wine, and liquor licenses in Baltimore County.

Small Business Effect: To the extent that holders of Class B licenses meet the seating capacity and alcohol sales criteria and obtain a fourth license, new small businesses could be created in Baltimore County. Although the number of such licensees that are small businesses is unknown, a vast majority would fall into that category. Increasing the number of licenses issued to a restaurant could negatively impact those restaurants which do not meet the alcohol sales criteria by not allowing them to expand.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 4, 1998
ncs Revised - House Third Reader - March 23, 1998

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