

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1027 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Economic Matters

Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Supermarkets
PG 312-00

This bill allows supermarkets to acquire Class A (off-sale) beer and light wine licenses. In order to qualify for a license, a supermarket must have at least 65,000 square feet of retail space and be located in an integrated commercial shopping center with at least 200,000 square feet of retail space. A supermarket would not qualify if any other premises in the shopping center are licensed to sell alcoholic beverages.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County revenues would increase by \$900 for each additional Class A beer and light wine license issued due to license and application fees. The Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners could monitor licensees with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: The Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners may not issue an alcoholic beverages license to a supermarket.

Local Revenues: Prince George's County revenues would increase by \$900 for each additional Class A beer and light wine license issued to supermarkets, \$200 for the license fee and \$700 for the initial application fee. In the out-years, each license would generate only the annual license fee of \$200. Prince George's County does not expect the bill to result in more than a few additional licenses since it does not raise the number of Class A beer and light wine licenses the Board of License Commissioners can issue.

Small Business Effect: Due to the bill's eligibility requirements, 65,000 square feet of retail space and location in a large shopping center, it is unlikely that small businesses will acquire class A licenses. It is more likely that larger supermarket chains will be able to obtain the licenses. However, to the extent that a supermarket's ability to sell alcoholic beverages increases traffic in the shopping center where it is located, other businesses in the center could profit. The bill could negatively impact small alcoholic beverage retailers in the general neighborhood of a supermarket that obtains a license.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

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