

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 549 (Senator Hafer)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Garrett County - Alcoholic Beverages - Caterer's License

This bill creates a CAT (caterer's) license in Garrett County that allows its holder to sell alcoholic beverages during a catered event. To qualify for a CAT license, applicants must have their facilities approved by the Garrett County Department of Health. CAT licensees may not hold a self-sponsored event nor may they hold any other alcoholic beverages license in Garrett County. Licensees are required to purchase alcoholic beverages for catered events from a Garrett County license holder and must also provide food at their events. Holders of CAT licenses must have at least one individual at an event who is certified by an alcohol awareness program licensed by the State Comptroller. Any unfinished containers of alcoholic beverages must be returned to the license holder's principal place of business at the end of an event. The licensing and issuing fees are \$500 each.

The bill is effective July 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Garrett County revenues would increase by \$1,000 for each CAT license issued due to the licensing and issuing fees. Licensees could be monitored with the existing resources of the Garrett County Board of License Commissioners.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no CAT license in Garrett County nor is there any other license applicable to a stand-alone catering business. Class B restaurant and hotel licensees in Garrett County may pay higher licensing and issuing fees to acquire a Class B license with a catering option.

Local Revenues: Garrett County revenues would increase by \$1,000 for each CAT license issued, \$500 for the one-time issuing fee and \$500 for the annual licensing fee. Out-years would only reflect the \$500 licensing fee. Garrett County estimates that one license would be issued in fiscal 2001 but that additional CAT licenses may follow in future years.

Small Business Effect: The addition of a CAT license would allow a small stand-alone catering business to acquire an alcoholic beverages license in Garrett County. Currently, only a Class B licensed restaurant or hotel can serve alcoholic beverages in conjunction with a catered event. The ability to sell and serve alcoholic beverages at a catered event could significantly increase the number of events for which a catering company would be hired and would also impact the profits generated from each event.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 2000
drg/jr

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