

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 370 (Delegate Edwards)

Economic Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Garrett County - Alcoholic Beverages - Wine Festival License**

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This bill authorizes the Garrett County Board of License Commissioners to issue one wine festival license per year to a holder of an existing Garrett County alcoholic beverages license, a State Class 3 winery license, or a State Class 4 limited winery license. The wine festival licensee can only display and sell wine that is manufactured and processed in a state, price filed in accordance with the Comptroller's regulations, distributed in Maryland at the time the application is filed, and intended for consumption on or off the licensed premises on the days and hours designated for the festival. The Garrett County Board of License Commissioners must establish the license fee and approve the dates and location for the festival. The wine festival cannot be held on Sundays or on the same weekend as the Maryland Wine Festival.

The bill is effective July 1, 2001.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Garrett County revenues could increase by \$100 for each license issued. No effect on expenditures.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. Maryland wineries could be positively impacted by promoting their products at the annual wine festival in Garrett County.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** Garrett County does not have a wine festival license.

**Background:** Garrett County advises that it wishes to hold an annual wine festival that would only feature wine that is manufactured and processed in Maryland. There are eleven wineries in Maryland: Basignani Winery, Boordy Winery, Catocin Winery, Cygnus Wine Cellars, Deep Creek Cellars, Elk Run Vineyards, Fiore Winery, Liganore Wine cellars, Loew Vineyards, Penn Oak Winery, and Woodhall Wine Cellars. All the wineries, except Penn Oak Winery which just started operations, participated in the two wine festivals held in Maryland during calendar 2000 that promoted Maryland wine exclusively. These festivals are the Maryland Wine Festival held in Westminster and Wine In The Woods held in Columbia.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Although the Garrett County Board of License Commissioners has not set the fee for the wine festival license, the board anticipates the cost of the license to be \$100. Accordingly, Garrett County revenues could increase by \$100 for each license issued.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Garrett County, Department of Agriculture (Office of Marketing), Woodhall Wine Cellars, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – February 26, 2001  
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Analysis by: Christopher J. Kelter

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510