

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE**Revised**

Senate Bill 554 (Senator Colburn)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Caroline County - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer and Wine Tasting and Sampling

This bill authorizes the Caroline County Board of License Commissioners to issue a one-day Class BWTS beer and wine (on premises) tasting or sampling license to a current alcoholic beverages licensee or any organization that qualifies for a special class C beer or Class C beer and wine license. The Class BWTS license fee is \$50 per day. A Class BWTS licensee is authorized to permit the consumption of wine or beer for tasting or sampling if the licensee serves samples at no charge to consumers. A Class BWTS licensee may: (1) hold up to 12 events per year; (2) allow consumers to sample or taste no more than one ounce from a single brand of wine and no more than four ounces from all brands of wine in a single day; and (3) allow consumers to sample or taste three ounces from a single brand of beer and no more than eight ounces from all brands of beer in a single day. All consumption of alcoholic beverages shall occur on the licensee's premises. At the end of the day for which a Class BWTS license is valid, the licensee shall dispose of unconsumed alcoholic beverages remaining in a container opened for tasting or sampling.

Fiscal Summary**State Effect:** None.**Local Effect:** Caroline County revenues would increase by \$50 for each Class BWTS license issued. The Caroline County Board of License Commissioners could monitor licensees with existing resources.**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no Class BWTS license in Caroline County, though several Maryland counties have some version of the license.

Local Fiscal Effect: Caroline County revenues would increase by \$50 for each BWTS license issued. The county expects no more than ten requests annually for a one-day Class BWTS license, raising annual revenues by \$500.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 741 (Delegates Eckhardt and Schisler) – Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 26, 2001
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