

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 585 (Washington County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Washington County - Alcoholic Beverages - Population Ratio Quota

This bill excludes individuals detained or confined in a correctional facility in Washington County from the calculation of the population ratio quota that applies to the issuance of certain alcoholic beverages licenses in Washington County.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Excluding persons detained in a correctional facility in Washington County from the population ratio quota would not directly affect Washington County finances.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal. To the extent that excluding persons detained in correctional facilities in Washington County from the population ratio quota limits the number of alcoholic beverages licenses that can be issued, the bill could have a positive impact on current license holders.

Analysis

Current Law: In Washington County, the population ratio quota means one alcoholic beverages license for every 1,000 individuals residing in the election district where the license will be issued as determined by the last federal population census. Except for a Class B (on-sale) alcoholic beverages license issued to a restaurant and any license renewed or transferred for the same premises, an alcoholic beverages license may not be issued within an election district if the number of licenses exceeds the population ratio

quota. The Washington County Board of License Commissioners, however, may issue additional licenses regardless of the population ratio quota if it determines that there is a public need for the issuance of a license, including government sanctioned economic revitalization.

Background: Correctional facilities include jails, prisons, pre-release centers, and halfway houses. Statistics on individuals detained in pre-release centers and halfway houses are difficult to obtain. However, approximately 2,025 persons are detained and confined in the Maryland Correctional Institution -- Hagerstown (MCI-H) facility at any one time. The MCI-H facility is located in the 12th election district.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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