

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 607 (Harford County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class BDR (Deluxe Restaurant) Licenses

This bill authorizes the Harford County Liquor Board to issue a special 7-day Class B (on-sale) license to be known as a Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) beer, wine, and liquor license. The annual fee is set at \$5,000. The license may be issued to a restaurant that: (1) meets the Liquor Control Board's definition of restaurant; (2) has a cocktail lounge or bar area seating capacity not exceeding 25% of the seating capacity for dining; and (3) has a minimum "capital investment" of \$800,000 exclusive of the cost of land. The current holder of any type of Class B license may be issued a Class BDR license only if the restaurant is located in a specified area of Harford County.

The bill also provides that a person who does not currently hold any type of Class B alcoholic beverages license in Harford County may apply for a maximum of two Class BDR licenses so long as one of the two licenses meets the specified geographic criteria. Any person who obtains a Class BDR license without previously holding any other Class B license may not obtain any other Class B license except a second Class BDR license in accordance with the above criteria.

A Class BDR licensee may sell alcoholic beverages during the same hours as a Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor licensee. The bill also limits the number of Class B licenses, including 7-day Class BDR licenses, that may be issued to a maximum of two per individual.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Harford County revenues would increase by \$5,000 annually for each Class BDR license issued and by \$500 for each initial application. The Liquor Control Board could issue and monitor the licenses with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. To the extent that small businesses in Harford County that currently hold a Class B alcoholic beverages license obtain a Class BDR license and open other establishments in Harford County, there would be significant positive impact.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) beer, wine, and liquor license in Harford County. The hours of operation for a Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license are from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the following day.

Local Fiscal Effect: Harford County expects that two existing Class B licensees may apply for the Class BDR license. Assuming two existing Class B licensees apply for the Class BDR license, Harford County revenues could increase by \$10,000 annually in addition to one-time application fees of \$1,000.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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