

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 138 (Howard County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

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Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages - Wine Tasting License  
Ho. Co. 1-01

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This bill repeals the September 30, 2001 sunset provision applicable to the wine tasting (WT) license in Howard County.

The bill is effective June 1, 2001.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Annual Howard County fee revenues of approximately \$20,000 would continue beyond September 30, 2001.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal. To the extent that the prohibition of wine tasting events would decrease customer traffic, holders of Class A liquor licenses could lose sales.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The wine tasting (WT) license in Howard County is set to expire on September 30, 2001.

**Background:** Chapter 233 of 1998 created the Howard County wine tasting (WT) license. Holders of Class A beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) licenses or Class A beer and wine (BW) licenses are allowed to apply for a wine tasting (WT) license. The annual fee

is \$100. The wine tasting (WT) license authorizes the on-premise consumption of wine for tasting or sampling only. Wine tasting (WT) licensees may not serve more than one ounce from each given brand to any one person and no more than four ounces to any one person in a single day. In addition, the wine cannot contain more than 14% alcohol by volume.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** In fiscal 1998, 184 wine tasting (WT) licenses were issued, generating \$18,400 in revenue. In fiscal 1999, 195 licenses were issued, generating \$19,500. In fiscal 2000, 197 licenses were issued, generating \$19,700. Based on this, it is estimated that about \$20,000 in annual fee revenues would continue beyond September 30, 2001.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – February 25, 2001  
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