

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

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 579 (Washington County Delegation)  
Economic Matters

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**Washington County - Alcoholic Beverages - Caterer's License**

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This bill authorizes the Washington County Board of License Commissioners to issue a caterer's license that allows a caterer to keep for sale and sell or provide alcoholic beverages at a catered event. The license fee is set at \$500. To qualify for a caterer's license, an applicant: (1) must have facilities to prepare food and deliver food to the site of the catered event; (2) must obtain approval of the facilities from the county board of health; (3) may not hold any other license in Washington County; and (4) need not have a banquet hall. Additionally, a caterer's licensee: (1) may operate the same days and hours as a Class B beer, wine, liquor license; (2) must purchase all alcoholic beverages from a wholesaler or retailer licensed to sell alcoholic beverages in Washington County; (3) must contract for and provide food as well as alcoholic beverages at the catered event; (4) must have at least one individual on site who has been certified by an alcohol awareness program licensed by the Comptroller; and (5) must return all containers that are not empty to the licensee's principal place of business at the end of the event. The caterer may not hold a self-sponsored event or provide only alcoholic beverages at a catered event.

The bill is effective June 1, 2001.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Washington County revenues would increase by \$500 for each caterer's license issued. Issuing and monitoring caterer's licenses could be handled with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful.

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### Analysis

**Current Law:** There is no caterer's alcoholic beverages license in Washington County. Class B beer, wine, and liquor licensees may operate from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the following day every day of the week.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Washington County revenues could increase by \$500 for each caterer's license issued. Washington County anticipates that six businesses would apply for the caterer's license, resulting in a \$3,000 annual increase in county revenues.

**Small Business Effect:** This bill allows existing caterers to serve alcoholic beverages. Currently, only six caterers in Washington County are expected to obtain a caterer's license under the bill's provisions, but other businesses may be encouraged to enter the market as a result of the bill. The minimal increase in competition may have a slight impact on current caterers in Washington County.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – March 1, 2001  
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