

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 899 (Senator Exum)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class A (Off-Sale) Licenses

This bill authorizes the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners to issue one Class A beer and light wine (off-sale) license in the 24th alcoholic beverages district. The licensee is prohibited from exercising the off-sale privilege between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. and may not deliver beer or wine to: (1) undergraduate college housing, university housing, or fraternity housing; (2) a person considered to be intoxicated; (3) a person under 21 years of age; or (4) to a person other than the customer who placed the order. The bill requires a display of a valid driver's license as proof of the customer's age at the time of delivery. The bill also reclassifies 26 existing Class A (off-sale) beer and light wine licenses as Class A (on-sale) beer and light wine licenses.

The bill is effective July 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County revenues could increase by \$220 annually from the issuance of one Class A (off-sale) license. Issuance and monitoring of the additional license could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: The Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners may not issue within or transfer into the boundaries of the 24th alcoholic beverages district any new beer, wine, or liquor licenses that have off-sale privileges. The license commissioners may approve the issuance or the transfer of a license into the 24th alcoholic beverages district provided any off-sale privileges are permanently waived as long as the license remains within the boundaries of the district. A maximum of 26 Class A beer and light wine licenses may be issued in the county. The annual fee for a Class A beer and light wine license is \$220. Class A licenses are by definition in statute an off-sale license.

Background: Chapter 616 of 1999 made the act of delivering alcoholic beverages to a nonlicensed recipient in Maryland a felony.

Small Business Effect: To the extent that one Class A beer and light wine (off-sale) license in the 24th alcoholic beverages district permits a small business to open there will be a significant impact because that licensee will be a monopoly in Prince George's County. Existing small businesses with Class A (off-sale) licenses may have to exit the market if their licenses are converted to Class A (on-sale) licenses. The change of existing Class A (off-sale) licenses to Class A (on-sale) licenses would open the market for small businesses to open establishments in Prince George's County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

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jm/hlb

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