

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 213  
Economic Matters

(Somerset County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs

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**Somerset County - Alcoholic Beverages - Sale and Distribution of Light Wine**

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This emergency bill prohibits the Somerset County liquor control board from controlling the sale and distribution of light wine to retail alcoholic beverage licensees in Somerset County.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. This bill codifies existing practice.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Montgomery, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties have monopoly control over the sale and distribution of the alcoholic beverages it is empowered to sell. Montgomery County may sell all alcoholic beverages, but Somerset and Worcester counties may sell all alcoholic beverages except beer. In Somerset County, the definition of light wine includes fermented beverages that contain no more than 22% of alcohol by volume.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Somerset County advises that Class A light wine off-sale licensees and Class D wine licensees are purchasing light wine from wholesalers other than the Somerset County Liquor Control Board. Accordingly, Somerset County revenues would

not change because Class A wine off-sale and Class D wine licensees already purchase wine from other wholesalers.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Somerset County, Comptroller's Office (Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 28, 2002  
ncs/hlb

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