

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 223 (Dorchester County Delegation)
Economic Matters

Dorchester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Tavern Licenses

This bill establishes in Dorchester County a Class D (on-sale) tavern license with an annual license fee of \$200 for an establishment with the capacity to seat 50 or more persons.

The bill is effective July 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Dorchester County revenues would increase by \$200 for each Class D (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license issued. Dorchester County could handle monitoring of the licenses with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: To the extent that the availability of a Class D (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor tavern license provides opportunities for a small business tavern to open, small businesses could be positively impacted.

Analysis

Current Law: The Dorchester County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue Class D beer and Class D beer and light wine licenses to taverns.

Generally, Class D beer, wine, and liquor tavern licenses authorize on and off-sale consumption except where restricted to on-sale consumption only. Class D licenses may

not be issued to any drugstore. Class D tavern licenses are authorized for on and off-sale consumption in Baltimore City and Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Cecil, Charles, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Washington, and Worcester counties. Various counties have limited off-sale privileges restricted to beer or beer and wine. Caroline and Wicomico counties are the only jurisdictions that restrict all alcoholic beverages sales in taverns to on-sale consumption.

Background: Dorchester County advises that it expects only two applications for Class D (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor licenses in fiscal 2003.

Local Fiscal Effect: Dorchester County revenues would increase by \$200 for each Class D (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license issued.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 698 (Senator Colburn) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 28, 2002
lsc/hlb

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