

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 874
Economic Matters

(Harford County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Stadium License - Sale of Liquor

This bill alters the privileges of the stadium (on-sale) alcoholic beverages license in Harford County to include liquor to be sold during events and increases the license fee from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

The bill is effective June 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Harford County revenues could increase by \$5,000 for each stadium beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license issued.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: In addition to authorizing liquor to be sold during events and increasing the license fee from \$5,000 to \$10,000, this bill also: (1) authorizes a stadium owned by the City of Aberdeen or a concession manager to hold a stadium (on-sale) alcoholic beverages license; (2) limits the consumption of liquor to the club level of the stadium; (3) requires that all beer and wine served during a baseball game to be served from a stationary structure equipped with a Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) Driver's License scanner; (4) requires vendors serving alcohol to hold an Alcohol Awareness Training Certificate; (5) prohibits roving vendors from selling alcoholic beverages; (6) except for a wholesaler conducting business on the licensed premises, expands the

prohibition on carrying alcoholic beverages onto or from the licensed premises to include liquor; and (7) allows for the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the stadium parking lot only with the prior written approval of the Harford County Liquor Control Board.

Current Law: The Harford County Liquor Control Board may issue a stadium beer and light wine (on-sale) license to the owner or lessee of a professional baseball stadium for use on the stadium premises. The annual fee is \$5,000. The licensee is authorized to sell beer and, if sold with a meal, light wine on the premises: (1) for consumption on the premises; (2) in a plastic, paper, or styrofoam container except that a glass container may be used in an enclosed dining area where patrons are seated; (3) to a person present at a baseball game in which the team of the licensee or lessee is playing; and (4) to a person present at an event that is held at the stadium. A wholesaler conducting business on the licensed premises is exempt from the prohibition of carrying alcoholic beverages onto or from the licensed premises.

Frederick and Wicomico counties offer substantially similar stadium licenses. In Frederick County the licensee may only sell beer and in Wicomico County the licensee may sell beer and may only sell wine with a meal. Neither license: (1) explicitly authorizes the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the stadium parking lot with prior written approval from a licensing authority; (2) explicitly prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages from roving vendors; (3) requires a MVA Driver's License scanner to be used on the licensed premises; or (4) requires vendors to hold an Alcoholic Awareness Training Certificate.

Background: Chapter 454 of 2001 created the stadium alcoholic beverages license in Harford County. Harford County advises that a stadium license under current law has not been issued and that the county's license year runs from May 1 to April 30. Harford County further advises that one baseball facility, the 6,000-seat Ripken Stadium, is scheduled to open in May 2002 with the first game scheduled for June 18, 2002. Ripken Stadium is expected to be the home playing field for a "Single A" minor league professional team.

Local Fiscal Effect: Assuming only one beer and wine license is issued under current law after May 1, 2002 and before July 1, 2002 and assuming the legislation goes into effect and a new beer, wine, and liquor license is issued to the existing licensee sometime on or after July 1, 2002, Harford County's fiscal 2003 revenues would increase by an additional \$5,000 minus a prorated amount of the beer and wine license at the old fee. If the existing licensee applied for the beer, wine, and liquor license for the next license year Harford County revenues would increase by an additional \$5,000 in fiscal 2003 and each year thereafter.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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