

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1141  
Economic Matters

(Frederick County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs

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**Frederick County - Special Beer Festival License**

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This bill authorizes the Frederick County Board of License Commissioners to issue a special beer festival license to the holder of a current retail alcoholic beverages license issued in Maryland, a Class 5 brewery license, or a Class 7 micro-brewery license. The license fee is set at \$15. The board must approve one weekend annually for the special beer festival that does not fall on the dates chosen for the Cumberland and Shenandoah Valley Wine Festival held in Washington County or the Maryland Wine Festival held in Carroll County, approve a nonlicensed premises in Frederick County for the special beer festival, and ensure that the primary focus of the festival is the promotion of Maryland beer. The bill also requires the board to adopt regulations for the special beer festival license.

The bill is effective June 1, 2003.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Frederick County revenues would increase by \$15 for each special beer festival license issued. Expenditures would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. Maryland breweries and microbreweries could be positively impacted by promoting their products at annual beer and wine festivals in Frederick County.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** The Frederick County Board of License Commissioners does not have the authority to issue a special beer festival license.

Special beer festival licenses are issued in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Jurisdictions that have beer and wine festival licenses include Allegany, Anne Arundel, Charles, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Worcester counties.

**Background:** As of April 30, 2001, there were three Class 5 licensed breweries and 20 Class 7 licensed microbreweries in Maryland.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 14, 2003  
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