

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 204 (Senators Brochin and Hollinger)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages - Towson Revitalization District

This bill authorizes the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners to transfer three licenses of any class of beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) retail license. The bill provides that any Class A (off-sale) or Class C (club) license or any license prohibited from being transferred by law or local regulation is prohibited from being transferred into the Towson Revitalization District. The bill also requires the transferred license to have been issued prior to January 1, 2002 and in existence at any location in election district 15 of Baltimore County on October 1, 2003.

The bill sunsets December 31, 2004.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore County revenues and expenditures would not be affected by the transfer of any beer, wine, and liquor license transferred into the Towson Revitalization District and converted into a Class B (TRD) restaurant beer, wine, and liquor license or a Class B (SB) service bar beer, wine, and liquor license.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Any alcoholic beverages licensee that converts their existing alcoholic beverages license into a Class B (TRD) restaurant beer, wine, and liquor license or a Class B (SB) service bar beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license for a restaurant in the Towson Revitalization District could be positively impacted.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill requires that two of the transferred licenses be converted into Class B (TRD) restaurant beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) licenses of which one must be issued only for a location in the Towson Revitalization District, subject to several qualifications and conditions, including a minimum capital investment requirement of \$500,000 and minimum seating capacity of 100 persons. The other Class B (TRD) restaurant license must be issued for a location in an area known as Old Towson Shopping District, subject to the same minimum \$500,000 capital investment requirement. The third transferred license must be converted into a Class B (SB) service bar beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license for a location in the Towson Revitalization District, subject to a minimum capital investment requirement of \$300,000 and a minimum seating requirement of 100 persons that has table service. Once issued, the licenses authorized by the bill may not be transferred outside of the Towson Revitalization District or converted into any other class of license. The proposed location for a restaurant must comply with applicable zoning ordinances of Baltimore County.

Current Law: There is no provision of law that permits the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners to transfer any class of beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) retail license into the Towson Revitalization District and convert it to a Class B (TRD) restaurant beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license or a Class B (SB) service bar beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license.

The annual license fee for any beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license eligible to be transferred into the Towson Revitalization District is \$1,000. The annual license fee for a Class B (SB) service bar beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license is \$1,000.

Background: The Towson Revitalization District was adopted by the Baltimore County Council on October 4, 1999.

Baltimore County advises that the license fee for a Class B (TRD) restaurant beer, wine, and liquor license would be \$1,000.

Chapter 333 of 1988 authorized the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners to create and issue ten Class B (SB) restaurant-service bar beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) licenses in the Pikesville Revitalization District notwithstanding any license population quota limitation. Some of the same restrictions to licenses issued in the Pikesville Revitalization District also apply to any license issued in the Towson Revitalization District.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2003
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