

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 187 (Garrett County Delegation)  
Economic Matters

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Garrett County - Alcoholic Beverages - Additional Restaurant License

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This bill authorizes the holder of an alcoholic beverages license in Garrett County to hold an additional Class B-BWL license if the establishment at which the additional license will be used is a restaurant that has seating capacity at tables, not including seats at bars or counters, for at least 20 persons and can prepare and serve full-course meals for at least 20 persons at one seating.

The bill is effective June 1, 2003.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Garrett County revenues would increase by \$3,000 for each additional Class B-BWL license issued. Expenditures would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** In general, a local alcoholic beverages board may not issue more than one alcoholic beverages license to, or for the use of, a person. However, there are numerous exceptions to this prohibition.

There is no provision of law in Garrett County that authorizes the holder of an alcoholic beverages license to hold a second license.

**Background:** Garrett County advises that there are three potential applicants for a Class B-BWL that currently hold an alcoholic beverages license in the county. The annual fee for a Class B-BWL license in Garrett County is \$3,000 (the annual license fee of \$1,500 and the issuing fee of \$1,500).

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Garrett County revenues would increase by \$3,000 for each additional Class B-BWL license issued. Assuming three Class B-BWL licenses are issued to current holders of alcoholic beverages licenses in Garrett County, county revenues could increase by \$9,000 in fiscal 2004 and by \$4,500 annually thereafter.

**Small Business Effect:** Small businesses in Garrett County that are current holders of an alcoholic beverages license who wish to open a restaurant or serve alcoholic beverages at an existing restaurant would be positively impacted. Existing alcoholic beverages licensees could face additional competition. If the addition of new restaurants leads to increased commercial activity, other small businesses may also benefit.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2003  
mam/hlb

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