

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 577

(Senator Jacobs)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages Deluxe Restaurant License - Aberdeen

This bill authorizes the Harford County Board of Liquor Control to issue a total of two special 7-day Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) beer, wine, and liquor licenses within the corporate limits of Aberdeen.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Harford County revenues would increase by \$5,000 annually for each Class BDR license issued and by \$500 for each initial application. The Harford County Liquor Control Board could issue and monitor the licenses with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. To the extent that small businesses in Harford County obtain a Class BDR license and open an establishment in Aberdeen, there could be a positive impact.

Analysis

Current Law: A special 7-day Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) license may be issued to a qualified applicant in specified areas of Harford County. Aberdeen is not a specified area eligible to be issued a special 7-day Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) license.

The Harford County Board of Liquor Control is authorized to issue one special 7-day Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) license to a current holder of any Class B alcoholic beverages license in specified areas. Additionally, the board may issue a maximum of

two special 7-day Class BDR licenses to an applicant who does not hold any Class B license as long as one license is in the specified areas and the other license is anywhere else in the county.

The annual license fee for a special 7-day Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) license is \$5,000. The license permits on-premises sale of beer, wine, and liquor and may be issued to a restaurant that: (1) meets the Liquor Control Board's definition of restaurant; (2) has a cocktail lounge or bar area seating capacity not exceeding 25% of the seating capacity for dining; and (3) has a minimum "capital investment" of \$800,000 exclusive of the cost of land.

Background: Chapter 488 of 2001 created the special 7-day Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) license. The special 7-day Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) license may currently be issued in the area generally known as the Route 40 corridor.

Local Fiscal Effect: Harford County advises that there are no known potential applicants currently expected to apply for the special 7-day Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) license. For illustrative purposes only, assuming one existing Class B licensee applies for and is granted one special 7-day Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) license and one applicant applies for and is granted two special 7-day Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) licenses, Harford County revenues could increase by \$15,000 annually in addition to one-time application fees of \$1,500 (\$500 for each application).

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2003
mld/hlb Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 23, 2003

Analysis by: Christopher J. Kelter

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510