

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 278

(Senator Hafer)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Garrett County - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer Tasting

This bill adds beer tasting privileges to the existing wine tasting license in Garrett County.

The bill is effective June 1, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Garrett County revenues would increase by \$100 for each additional beer and wine tasting license issued. Any increase in revenue is expected to be minimal. Monitoring of licenses could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Small businesses that are licensed alcoholic beverages establishments and conduct beer tasting events to generate commercial traffic in their establishments could be positively impacted.

Analysis

Current Law: The Garrett County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue a wine tasting license to a beer and wine licensee or a beer, wine, and liquor licensee. Wine may be served for tasting and sampling purposes only and no fee may be charged or exacted. The Board of License Commissioners regulates the quantity of wine that may be served to each person and the number of bottles from which that quantity is being served. The annual fee for the wine tasting license privilege is \$100.

Eleven jurisdictions have wine only tasting licenses (Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Carroll, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Prince George's, Talbot, Washington and Wicomico counties) and three jurisdictions have beer and wine tasting licenses (Baltimore, Caroline, and Harford counties).

Background: The Garrett County wine tasting license was authorized by Chapter 99 of 1999.

Local Fiscal Effect: Three alcoholic beverages licensees have obtained the wine tasting option. The three licensees generate license revenue of \$300 annually. However, Garrett County advises that it expects only one additional establishment, a pub-brewery, to apply for the tasting license with the expanded beer tasting privileges.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2003
mdf/hlb

Analysis by: Christopher J. Kelter

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