

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 333 (Harford County Delegation)
Economic Matters

**Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class A and Class D Licenses -
Prohibition on Issuance**

This bill prohibits in Harford County the issuance of a new Class A or Class D beer; beer and light wine; or beer, wine, and liquor license to any person, corporation, or limited liability company holding an alcoholic beverages license in any other state or the District of Columbia. The bill allows current license holders to renew their licenses.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Harford County revenues could decrease minimally due to the prohibition against issuing a license to an entity that holds an alcoholic beverages license in any other state or the District of Columbia. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no prohibition in Harford County against the issuance of such a license to a person, corporation, or limited liability company holding an alcoholic beverages license in any other state or the District of Columbia. Several jurisdictions restrict issuance to current license holders only.

In Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, and Washington counties a Class A or Class D beer; beer and light wine; or beer, wine, and liquor license may not be

issued, except by way of renewal, to a person, corporation, or limited liability company holding an alcoholic beverages license in any other state or the District of Columbia. In Baltimore City, a Class A or Class D beer; beer and light wine; or beer, wine, and liquor license may not be issued, except by way of renewal, to a person, corporation, or limited liability company holding an alcoholic beverages license in any other state.

Background: As of April 30, 2003, there were 64 Class A and Class D licensees in Harford County. Harford County advises that two of these licensees also hold an alcoholic beverages license in another state or the District of Columbia.

Small Business Effect: Existing small businesses in Harford County that hold a Class A or Class D beer; beer and light wine; or beer, wine, and liquor license may be positively impacted due to less competition. Any small business seeking such a license in Harford County that currently holds an alcoholic beverages license in any other state or the District of Columbia would be prevented from obtaining a license.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 226 (Harford County Senators) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2004
mh/ljm

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