

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 134 (Delegate Sossi, *et al.*)  
Economic Matters

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Queen Anne's County - Special Maryland Wine Licensing Privilege

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This bill authorizes the Queen Anne's County Board of License Commissioners to issue a special Maryland wine license privilege to a holder of a Class B (on-sale) beer and wine license or any beer, wine, and liquor license. The special Maryland wine license privilege authorizes the licensee to sell bottled wine for consumption off the premises (off-sale privilege). The annual fee for a special Maryland wine license privilege is \$100.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2004.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Queen Anne's County revenues would increase by \$100 for each special Maryland wine license privilege issued. County expenditures would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. Small businesses in Queen Anne's County that are holders of a Class B (on-sale) beer and wine license or any Class B; Class C; or Class D beer, wine, and liquor license would be positively impacted due to the ability to sell bottles of wine to their customers.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Generally, Class B beer and wine licensees and Class B beer, wine, and liquor licensees are authorized to keep for sale and sell at retail any alcoholic beverages that they are licensed to sell on the licensed premises or elsewhere as authorized by the

local board of license commissioners. However, most jurisdictions in Maryland expressly prohibit Class B beer and wine licensees and Class B beer, wine, and liquor licensees from selling alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption. Additionally, most jurisdictions in Maryland, with limited exceptions, expressly prohibit Class C beer, wine, and liquor licensees and Class D beer, wine, and liquor licensees from selling alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption. Conversely, all Class A licensees in Maryland are only authorized for off-sale privileges.

In Queen Anne's County, restaurants with a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license; clubs with a Class C beer, wine, and liquor license; and taverns with a Class D beer, wine, and liquor license are authorized to sell beer for off-premises consumption.

There is no provision of law authorizing the Queen Anne's County Board of License Commissioners to issue a special Maryland wine license privilege similar to the proposed Queen Anne's County special Maryland wine license privilege that would permit the sale of bottles of wine for off-premises consumption. In Maryland, only Kent County offers a similar Maryland wine license privilege to its licensees.

**Background:** According to the Comptroller of Maryland, as of April 30, 2003, in Queen Anne's County there were 9 Class B (on-sale) beer and wine licensees and 43 Class B, Class C, and Class D licensees with beer, wine, and liquor privileges. All 52 of these licensees would be eligible to obtain a special Maryland wine license. It is currently unknown how many Class B (on-sale) beer and wine licensees or Class B, C, and D beer, wine, and liquor licensees in Queen Anne's County would obtain a special Maryland wine license.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 20 (Senator Pipkin) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Queen Anne's County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 23, 2004  
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