

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 335
Economic Matters

(Harford County Delegation)

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Issuance on Basis of Population

This bill alters the methodology for determining how many Class A-1 (off-sale) beer, wine, and liquor licenses and Class A-2 (off-sale) beer, wine, and liquor licenses may be issued by the Harford County Liquor Control Board. The bill also repeals the restriction that the board may issue only one Class B-1 (on-sale) beer and wine or Class B-2 (on-sale) beer and wine license for every 3,000 individuals of the population of Harford County. The bill does not affect the issuance of an additional Class A (off-sale) beer and wine license.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Harford County finances would not be directly affected by altering the number of available alcoholic beverages licenses.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Harford County Liquor Control Board may not issue more than one Class A (off-sale) beer and wine license, Class B-1 (on-sale) beer and wine license, or Class B-2 (on-sale) beer and wine license for every 3,000 of population. The board may issue one additional Class A-1 (off-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license or Class A-2 (off-

sale) beer, wine, and liquor license for every 20,000 individuals of population beyond the number of licenses on July 1, 1984.

Background: Harford County advises that under current law the maximum number of Class A, Class B-1, and Class B-2 licenses that may be issued based on population is 76. Currently, 34 Class A, Class B-1, and Class B-2 licenses are issued in the county. Accordingly, 42 additional Class A, B-1, and B-2 licenses could be issued.

The county advises that under current law the maximum number of Class A-1 and Class A-2 licenses that may be issued is 50: the 39 such licenses set in 1984 and 11 additional such licenses allowed due to population provisions. Currently, 37 Class A-1 and Class A-2 licenses are issued. Accordingly, 13 available Class A-1 and Class A-2 licenses could be issued.

The bill's provisions remove the restrictions on the number of Class B-1 and Class B-2 licenses that may be issued. The total number of Class A, Class A-1, and Class A-2 licenses that may be issued will essentially remain the same as under current law, assuming one-third of the allocation is for Class A licenses. However, the bill would allow for the issuance of more Class A-1 and Class A-2 licenses than currently authorized as theoretically all 76 licenses could be issued in those classes.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 230 (Harford County Senators) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2004
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