

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 995

(St. Mary's County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs

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**St. Mary's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Special Wine Festival Licenses**

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This bill specifies that a special wine festival (WF) license issued in St. Mary's County may only be issued to the sponsor of a wine festival.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2004.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. Specifying that the sponsor of a wine festival may be the only licensee of a special wine festival in St. Mary's County would not affect county finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The St. Mary's County Alcoholic Beverages Board may issue a special WF license. An applicant for a special WF license must be the holder of an existing retail alcoholic beverages license issued in Maryland that authorizes the sale of wine, a Class 3 winery license, or a Class 4 limited winery license.

A license for the sale of alcoholic beverages in St. Mary's County must be issued to a corporation in which at least 15% of the owners of stock are residents of St. Mary's County who have lived in the county for at least six months preceding the application for a license.

**Background:** St. Mary's County advises that the sponsor of a special wine festival must meet the residency requirements of the special WF license. Accordingly, wineries who conduct their operations in a county other than St. Mary's County cannot be the sponsor of a special wine festival.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** St. Mary's County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 29, 2004  
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