

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 228

(Harford County Senators)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Harford County - Light Wines Produced at Wineries - Retail Sale to Consumers

This bill authorizes Class 4 limited wineries in Harford County that hold a Class A light wine license to keep for sale and to sell at retail any amount of port wine produced at the winery that does not exceed 23% alcohol by volume.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Class 4 limited wineries in Harford County that hold a Class A light wine license would be positively impacted by selling fortified port wines at retail to consumers at the winery.

Analysis

Current Law: In Harford County, Class 4 limited wineries that have been issued a Class A light wine license may sell at retail an unlimited amount of light wine produced at the winery. In Harford County, light wine is defined as any naturally fermented wine containing not more than 23% alcohol by volume.

Background: The Comptroller's Office issues Class 4 limited winery licenses. There are 12 Class 4 limited wineries in Maryland; Fiore Winery is the only Class 4 limited winery located in Harford County.

Producers of naturally made port wine cannot control the alcohol by volume content; typically, the alcohol by volume content of naturally made port wine exceeds 23%. However, producers of fortified port wines can control the alcohol by volume content to an amount greater than 18% and less than 22%.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 347 (Harford County Delegation) – Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2004
n/jr

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