

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 599
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages Licensees (Off-Sale) - Hours for Sale
PG 312-04

This bill alters the closing hour for the sale of alcoholic beverages from 2 a.m. to 12 midnight for an off-sale alcoholic beverages license or an alcoholic beverages license with off-sale privileges. The bill provides that the 12 midnight closing hour for the sale of alcoholic beverages also applies to: (1) Class A beer, wine, and liquor licensees that are authorized to be open on Sundays except when Sunday falls on December 24 or December 31; and (2) Class A licensees that are open on Sundays that sell commodities other than alcoholic beverages.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County finances would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. Small businesses that hold off-sale alcoholic beverages licenses or licenses with off-sale privileges could be negatively impacted by the prohibition against selling alcoholic beverages after 12 midnight.

Analysis

Current Law: A holder of any Class A (off-sale) alcoholic beverages license in Prince George's County may not sell alcoholic beverages between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. A holder of any Class B license with off-sale privileges in Prince George's County may

not sell alcoholic beverages between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. Monday through Saturday and may not be sold between the hours of 2 a.m. and 8 a.m. on Sunday.

A Class A beer, wine, and liquor licensee in Prince George's County may not sell alcoholic beverages after 2 a.m. on any Sunday except on a Sunday that falls on December 24 or December 31 when the licensee may not sell alcoholic beverages between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

The holder of any Class A license in Prince George's County who sells commodities other than alcoholic beverages and is open on Sundays must keep all alcoholic beverages in a separate beverage department securely closed and locked between the hours of 2 a.m. Sunday and 6 a.m. the following Monday.

The closing hour for the sale of alcoholic beverages varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. The closing hour for the sale of alcoholic beverages by off-sale licensees in jurisdictions surrounding Prince George's County are:

- 2 a.m. on Monday through Saturday and 12 midnight on Sunday in Charles County;
- 2 a.m. in Calvert County;
- 2 a.m. in Anne Arundel County;
- 2 a.m. in Howard County; and
- 1 a.m. in Montgomery County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2004
ncs/ljm

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