

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 779

(Delegate Cane, *et al.*)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Wicomico County – Alcoholic Beverages – Special Beer Festival License

This bill authorizes the Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners to issue a special beer festival license to the holder of an existing Class 5 brewery, Class 6 pub-brewery, or Class 7 micro-brewery manufacturer's license. The bill provides that beer festival licensees are only allowed to display and sell beer owned and manufactured by the licensee and that beer may be displayed and sold on the festival premises only on the hours and days designated for the festival. The Board of License Commissioners may designate the number of times a festival license may be issued. The daily license fee is \$50.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2004.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Wicomico County revenues would increase by \$50 for each day that a special beer festival license is issued. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Maryland breweries, pub-breweries, and micro-breweries could be positively impacted by promoting their products at beer festivals in Wicomico County.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no special beer festival license in Wicomico County.

Special beer festival licenses are issued in Baltimore City and Baltimore and Frederick counties. Jurisdictions that have beer and wine festival licenses include Allegany, Anne Arundel, Charles, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Worcester counties.

Background: As of April 30, 2003, there were four Class 5 licensed breweries, one Class 6 licensed pub-brewery, and 19 Class 7 licensed micro-breweries in Maryland.

Local Fiscal Effect: Wicomico County advises that it expects no more than two beer festivals to be held each year but that it is difficult to predict the level of participation by breweries, pub-breweries, and micro-breweries at beer festivals held in the county. In any event, Wicomico County revenues would increase by \$50 for each day that a brewery, pub-brewery, or micro-brewery participates in a beer festival.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2004
n/jr

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