

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 661
Economic Matters

(Howard County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class BLX Licenses
Ho. Co. 19-05

This bill repeals the limit on the number of Class BLX (luxury restaurant) (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor licenses that may be issued in Howard County.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Howard County license fee revenues would increase by \$2,000 for each additional license issued, plus a one-time application fee of \$200 for each new license.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but potential meaningful for businesses which would be able to obtain a Class BLX license.

Analysis

Current Law: Howard County may issue up to six Class BLX licenses. To qualify for a Class BLX license, a restaurant must have a minimum seating capacity of 125 persons, be constructed on or after July 1, 1992, and have a minimum capital investment of \$750,000 for restaurant facilities, exclusive of the cost of land and buildings. The annual fee of a Class BLX license is \$2,000.

A Class BLX license may also be obtained in Cecil, Charles, and Prince George's counties.

Local Fiscal Effect: Howard County revenues would increase by \$2,000 annually for each new Class BLX license issued. While it is unknown how many luxury restaurants would apply for a Class BLX license, it is assumed to be minimal. Monitoring of these licenses could be handled with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2005
n/ljm

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