

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 141

(Senator Della)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Arts Center in Highlandtown

This bill repeals the time limit by which a not-for-profit arts center in the Highlandtown Arts and Entertainment District that holds a Class C license on June 1, 2004 may apply the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners for conversion of the license to a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City annual license fee revenues would increase by \$1,100 for each Class B beer, wine, and liquor license issued as a result of this authority. This license fee revenue, however, would be offset by the amount of the current fee of \$550 for any Class C license which would be converted. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful for a holder of a Class C license who would be allowed to convert their license to a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 453 of 2004 authorized a not-for-profit arts center in the Highlandtown Arts and Entertainment District that holds a Class C license on June 1, 2004 to apply, on or before May 31, 2005, to the board for conversion of the license to a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license.

Background: Baltimore City advises that this bill is meant to allow the Creative Alliance on Eastern Avenue to operate a restaurant. However, the Creative Alliance has not yet found an operator for the restaurant and would need more time to get the project off the ground.

In general, a Class C alcoholic beverages license allows a society, fraternal, or social organization to sell alcoholic beverages, and a Class B alcoholic beverages license is generally issued to restaurants for the sale of alcoholic beverages as prescribed by law.

Local Fiscal Effect: The annual license fee for a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license is \$1,100, and the annual license fee for a Class C license is \$550. Since only one license would be affected by this bill, Baltimore City revenues would increase by \$550. Monitoring of the license is absorbable within existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 2005
n/ljm

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