

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 863
Economic Matters

(Carroll County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Carroll County - Special Beer Festival License

This bill authorizes the Carroll County Board of License Commissioners to issue a special beer festival license to a holder of a Class 5 manufacturer's (brewery) license, a Class 7 manufacturer's (micro-brewery) license, or a holder of a current retail alcoholic beverages license issued in Maryland. The festival is to be held on one weekend – chosen by the board of license commissioners – that does not coincide with the Cumberland and Shenandoah Valley Wine Festival in Washington County, the Maryland Wine Festival in Carroll County, or the Anne Arundel Beer and Wine Festival. The board of license commissioners is required to adopt regulations for the implementation of the beer festival.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Carroll County license fee revenues would increase by \$200 for each special beer festival license issued as a result of this authority. Monitoring of licenses could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal positive impact for businesses that promote their products at the beer festival.

Analysis

Background: Beer and wine festivals are held annually throughout the State. They are seen as advertising and publicity events for businesses participating in the festival. Beer and wine festival licenses may be issued in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Charles, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Worcester counties. In addition to beer and wine festivals, special wine festival licenses may be issued in Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Garrett, Harford, Howard, St. Mary's, Somerset, Washington, and Wicomico counties, as well as Baltimore City. A special beer festival license may be obtained in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Frederick, and Wicomico counties.

In fiscal 2004, the Comptroller's Office issued 4 Class 5 manufacturer's (brewery) licenses and 19 Class 7 manufacturer's (micro-brewery) licenses. Statewide, local jurisdictions issued 6,832 retail alcoholic beverages licenses in fiscal 2004.

Local Fiscal Effect: The total license fee revenue increase would depend on the number of special beer festival licenses issued. Carroll County advises that it does not know how many special beer festival licenses would be issued as a result of this authority. The county does advise, however, that it does not anticipate more than one application for a special beer festival license in fiscal 2006 given the effective date of this bill. Expenditures would not be affected, as monitoring compliance could be handled with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Carroll County, Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2005
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Analysis by: Joshua A. Watters

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510