

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2005 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1125  
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Repeal of Class B/Arena License  
- Hours of Sale  
PG 333-05**

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This bill repeals the authority of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners to issue a Class B/Arena beer, wine, and liquor license.

The 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 December 24 or December 31 fall on Sunday; and (2) Class A licensees that are open on Sundays that sell commodities other than alcoholic beverages.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2005.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. Prince George's County does not currently issue a Class B/Arena license, thus repealing the authority to issue it would not affect county finances. Altering the hours of sale for alcoholic beverages would not affect county finances.

**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.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** The Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue one Class B/Arena beer, wine, and liquor license annually.

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 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 when December 24 or December 31 falls on a Sunday. Then 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.

**Background:** Chapter 837 of 1973 created the Class B/Arena license for issuance to the USAir Arena (formerly known as the Capital Centre); the USAir Arena was imploded on December 15, 2002.

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## 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 18, 2005  
ncs/ljm Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 4, 2005

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