

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1106
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Additional Class B Licenses
PG 314-05

This bill authorizes the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners to issue an additional Class B beer, wine, and liquor license to holders of a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license if the additional license being sought is for an establishment defined by county zoning ordinance as a waterfront entertainment retail complex or an establishment located on 100 or more acres that has been designated by the Prince George's County Executive as a recreational, destination, or entertainment attraction. The bill also prohibits an individual, partnership, corporation, unincorporated association, or limited liability company from holding or having an interest in more than one of these additional licenses.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County annual license fee revenues would increase by \$2,500 for each additional Class B beer, wine, and liquor license issued at the areas specified in the bill. Additionally, revenues would increase by \$700 for a one-time application fee for each license issued as a result of this authority. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful for businesses that would be able to obtain additional Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses for restaurants in areas specified in the bill.

Analysis

Current Law: In general, a local alcoholic beverages board may not issue more than one alcoholic beverages license to, or for the use of, one person. However, there are numerous exceptions to this prohibition. The Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue additional Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses to an individual, partnership, corporation, unincorporated association, or limited liability company for restaurants in underserved areas, specifically the Suitland business district, the Port Towns business district, or the Largo area.

The initial application fee in Prince George's County for an alcoholic beverages license is \$700. There is no renewal application fee for alcoholic beverages licenses in Prince George's County.

Background: Prince George's County advises that the waterfront entertainment retail complex as defined by a county ordinance is the National Harbor resort.

The county advises that a proposed mixed-use project, tentatively called Konterra, would be located south of Laurel and includes in its plans a recreational, destination, or entertainment attraction of 100 or more acres.

Local Fiscal Effect: Prince George's County advises that both of these developments would feature multiple restaurants. However, it is currently unknown how many Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses would be issued as a result of this authority. As such, the precise fiscal impact on county finances cannot be reliably quantified at this time. In any event, Prince George's County revenues would increase by \$3,200 for each new Class B beer, wine, and liquor license issued at these developments for the annual license fee (\$2,500) as well as a one-time application fee (\$700). County revenues would increase by \$2,500 for each license that is renewed in subsequent years. Monitoring of the additional licenses should be absorbable within existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 598 of 2004, an identical bill, passed the House but was never reported out of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 18, 2005
n/ljm

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