

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 777 (Senator Dyson)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**St. Mary's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer and Wine Tasting or Sampling**

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This bill authorizes the St. Mary's County Board of License Commissioners to issue a one-day Class BWTS beer and wine (on-premises) tasting or sampling license to a holder of a current alcoholic beverages license or an organization that qualifies for a special Class C beer, special Class C beer and wine, or a special Class C beer, wine, and liquor license in St. Mary's County. The Class BWTS license authorizes the licensee to conduct beer and wine tasting or sampling within certain procedural guidelines, and the licensee may only be granted a special BWTS license up to 12 times in a calendar year. The license fee is \$50.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Potential increase in St. Mary's County license fee revenues. Expenditures would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The St. Mary's County Board of License Commissioners does not have the authority to issue a Class BWTS license for beer and wine tasting or sampling.

**Background:** A number of local jurisdictions have the authority to issue a special license that authorizes the holder to conduct beer tasting (Carroll County), wine tasting (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Dorchester, Frederick, Howard, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Washington, and Wicomico counties), or both beer and wine tasting (Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore, Caroline, and Garrett counties). In Harford County, the liquor control board may issue a beer, wine, and liquor tasting license.

In St. Mary's County, a special Class C beer license; a special Class C beer and wine license; and a special Class C beer, wine, and liquor license may be issued to a bona fide religious, fraternal, civic, veterans', hospital, or charitable club, society, association, or organization.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** License fee revenue would increase by \$50 for each Class BWTS license issued under this authority. St. Mary's County advises, however, that the total revenue derived from the issuance of these licenses is difficult to predict because the county does not know how many individuals would apply for this license. The issuance and monitoring of these licenses could be handled with existing resources.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 1041 (St. Mary's County Delegation) – Economic Matters.

**Information Source(s):** St. Mary's County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 4, 2005  
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