

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 948 (Senator Giannetti)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Additional Licensed Premises
near Metrorail Stations**

This bill would authorize the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners to allow an individual, partnership, corporation, unincorporated association, or limited liability company to hold or have an interest in more than one Class B beer, wine, and liquor license, if the restaurant is located in an area within 2,000 feet of a metrorail station.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County license fee revenues would increase by \$2,500 for each Class B beer, wine, and liquor license issued as a result of this authority. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful for restaurants that would be allowed to obtain a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license within 2,000 feet of a metrorail station.

Analysis

Current Law: The Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to allow an individual, partnership, corporation, unincorporated association, or limited liability company to hold or have an interest in more than one Class B beer, wine,

and liquor license in an area underserved by restaurants, including parts of the Largo area, Port Towns business district, and Suitland business district. With some exceptions, the licensee may not hold more than four Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses within all of these areas.

Background: Prince George's County advises that it is trying to promote development in the areas surrounding metrorail stations. Therefore, authorizing the county to allow an individual, partnership, corporation, unincorporated association, or limited liability company to hold or have an interest in more than one Class B beer, wine, and liquor license within 2,000 feet of a metrorail station could attract restaurants to the areas. There are 15 Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority metrorail stations in Prince George's County.

Local Fiscal Effect: For each Class B beer, wine, and liquor license issued as a result of this authority, Prince George's County license fee revenues would increase by \$2,500. The total impact of this authority cannot be reliably quantified at this time, as it would depend on the number of restaurants which would choose to locate in the areas surrounding metrorail stations. The cost of monitoring of the additional licenses should be absorbable with existing resources.

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 9, 2005
mam/ljm

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