

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 401

(Delegates Bozman and Conway)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Worcester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Sales and Deliveries by Liquor
Control Board**

This bill authorizes the Worcester County Liquor Control Board to sell or deliver alcoholic beverages, except beer and light wine, to retail license holders on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill's changes would have a minimal impact on Worcester County. The Liquor Control Board does not plan to make deliveries on Sundays.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Unless otherwise specified, a wholesale license holder may sell or deliver alcoholic beverages to retail license holders between 6 a.m. and midnight every day except Sundays.

In Worcester County, retail liquor license holders that have 7-day, off-sale (packaged liquor) licenses can sell alcoholic beverages from 6:00 a.m. on Sunday to 2:00 a.m. on

Monday. Retail license holders with 7-day, on-sale (for consumption on the premises) licenses can sell alcoholic beverages from 9:00 a.m. on Sunday to 2:00 a.m. on Monday.

All licensees in Worcester County must purchase all wines and liquors, except light wine and beer, from the Liquor Control Board. Light wine and beer may be purchased from licensed wholesalers.

Background: In general, most Maryland jurisdictions permit the sale of alcoholic beverages through a three-tier system in which retail alcoholic beverage licensees purchase alcoholic beverages from licensed Maryland wholesalers who purchase alcoholic beverages from licensed manufacturers and import companies. In Montgomery, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties, the county operates a dispensary system through which it acts as a wholesaler for retail alcoholic beverage licensees. Worcester County has six county dispensaries: one each in Berlin, Pocomoke City, and Snow Hill, and three in Ocean City.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Worcester County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2006
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