

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1641
Economic Matters

(Frederick County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer and Wine Sampling or Tasting License

This bill alters the wine tasting (WT) license in Frederick County to be a beer and wine sampling or tasting (BWST) license. The annual license fee is increased from \$150 to \$200, and the bill repeals the limit of 15 days during a licensing period on which sampling or tasting events may be held. A single individual may not be allowed to consume for sampling or tasting purposes more than one ounce of a given brand of light wine and not more than three ounces of a given brand of beer.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Frederick County revenues could increase by \$950 in FY 2007, due to the license fee increase. Any increased monitoring and enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A WT license may only be issued to a Class A (off-sale) license holder. A license may be granted without a hearing and may be renewed at the time the regular (Class A) license is renewed. A WT licensee may not serve to any person for sampling or tasting purposes more than one ounce from each brand and a maximum of six bottles

may be opened at any time. A wine sampling or tasting may not be held on more than 15 days in each annual licensing period and the Frederick County Board of License Commissioners must be notified in writing at least 5 days before each event.

Once opened, each bottle used for the wine sampling or tasting event must be marked to be used for that purpose only. The contents of each bottle may not be mixed with the contents of another bottle and all bottles must be destroyed once they are empty.

A WT license is for on-premises consumption only. Wine sampling or tasting may not be conducted through a drive-through window.

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.

Local Fiscal Effect: There are 19 WT licensees in Frederick County. Revenues would increase by \$950 in fiscal 2007, due to the license fee increase, assuming the 19 WT licensees would renew their licenses in fiscal 2007 and that the license fee increase would be effective at the time of renewal. It cannot be accurately estimated whether other Class A license holders in addition to the 19 WT licensees would apply for a BWST license because of the bill's changes. Any increased monitoring and enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 16, 2006
ncs/hlb

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