

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 634

(Cecil County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Cecil County - Alcoholic Beverages - Wine Festival License

This bill authorizes the Cecil County Liquor Board to issue a special wine festival license and designate one weekend annually on which to hold the festival.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill will not directly affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Cecil County revenues could increase by \$20 annually. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. The wine festival the bill creates could provide exposure for participating Maryland wineries.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A special wine festival license may be issued to a holder of a State retail alcoholic beverages license, State Class 3 winery license, or State Class 4 winery license. The primary focus of the festival must be the promotion of Maryland wine. The license holder may only display and sell wine that is price filed in accordance with regulations adopted by the Comptroller and distributed in the State. The wine must be sold at retail and may be consumed on or off the licensed premises during the days and hours designated for the festival. The license fee is \$20.

The board is authorized to choose one weekend annually during the months of June, July, August, or September for the festival, which must not conflict with the Anne Arundel County Beer and Wine Festival, the Cumberland and Shenandoah Valley Wine Festival, or the Maryland Wine Festival. The festival must be held at a location that does not have a liquor license. The board must adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of the bill.

Current Law: Eighteen counties currently have the authority to issue wine festival licenses. The Anne Arundel County Beer and Wine Festival, the Cumberland and Shenandoah Valley Wine Festival, and the Maryland Wine Festival are licensed by Anne Arundel, Washington, and Carroll counties, respectively.

Background: Currently, 22 wineries in Maryland produce over 180 wines. Sales of Maryland wine in calendar 2005 totaled roughly \$8.2 million.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Cecil County, Maryland Wine Association, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2006
ncs/hlb

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