

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1356
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Exercise of Off-Sale
Privileges
PG 308-06

This bill provides that off-sale privileges may not be exercised before 9 a.m. on authorized days by holders of the following alcoholic beverages licenses: Class A, B, or D beer licenses; Class A, B, or D beer and light wine licenses; and Class A, B, or D beer, wine, and liquor licenses. The bill also changes the closing hour for a Class D beer, wine, and liquor license holder (both on- and off-sale) from midnight to 2 a.m. on the following day.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill's provisions should not materially affect county finances.

Small Business Effect: Overall minimal. Potential meaningful for small businesses holding off-sale alcoholic beverages licenses or licenses with off-sale privileges affected by the bill that could be negatively impacted by limiting the hours during which they may exercise off-sale privileges.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A holder of a Class A (off-sale) license who offers products other than alcoholic beverages for sale and is open on Sunday for the sale of such products, must

keep alcoholic beverages on the premises securely closed and locked in a compartment, compartments, or enclosure between midnight on Sunday until 9 a.m. the following Monday.

Current Law: In Prince George's County, alcoholic beverages may not be sold for off-premises consumption before 6 a.m. on authorized days by holders of the following licenses: Class A, B, or D beer licenses; Class A, B, or D beer and light wine licenses; and Class A, B, or D beer, wine, and liquor licenses.

A holder of a Class A (off-sale) license who offers products other than alcoholic beverages for sale and is open on Sunday for the sale of such products, must keep alcoholic beverages on the premises securely closed and locked in a compartment, compartments, or enclosure between midnight on Sunday until 6 a.m. the following Monday.

Background: The hours for which off-sale privileges are conferred on alcoholic beverages license holders can vary by jurisdiction. In Montgomery County, for example, the privileges conferred on a Class A (off-sale) beer or beer and light wine license may be exercised from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. the following day for every day including Sundays. Additionally, in Montgomery County, the privileges conferred on a Class B and Class D beer and beer and light wine license may be exercised from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. the following day for every day including Sundays for off-sale.

Local Fiscal Effect: Potential operational impact from monitoring compliance with the bill's provisions. However, it is assumed that any such operational impact would be minimal and absorbable within 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 2, 2006
nas/hlb

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