

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 357
Economic Matters

(St. Mary's County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

St. Mary's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer and Wine Tasting or Sampling

This bill authorizes the St. Mary's County Board of License Commissioners to issue a one-day Class BWTS beer and wine (on-premises) tasting or sampling license to a holder of a current alcoholic beverages license or an organization that qualifies for a special Class C beer; special Class C beer and wine; or a special Class C beer, wine, and liquor license in St. Mary's County. The Class BWTS license authorizes the licensee to conduct beer and wine tasting or sampling within certain procedural guidelines, and the licensee may only be granted a special BWTS license up to 12 times in a calendar year. The license fee is \$50.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential increase in St. Mary's County license fee revenues. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The St. Mary's County Board of License Commissioners does not have the authority to issue a Class BWTS license for beer and wine tasting or sampling.

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.

In St. Mary's County, a special Class C beer license; a special Class C beer and wine license; and a special Class C beer, wine, and liquor license may be issued to a bona fide religious, fraternal, civic, veterans', hospital, or charitable club, society, association, or organization.

Local Fiscal Effect: License fee revenue would increase by \$50 for each Class BWTS license issued under this authority. St. Mary's County advises, however, that the total revenue derived from the issuance of these licenses is difficult to predict because the county does not know how many individuals would apply for this license. The issuance and monitoring of these licenses could be handled with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Identical bills, SB 777/HB 1041, were introduced at the 2005 session. SB 777 had a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken. HB 1041 received a favorable with amendments report from the House Economic Matters Committee and was passed by the House. No action was taken by the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): St. Mary's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2006
ncs/hlb

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