

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 687

(Senator Klausmeier)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer, Wine and Liquor Tasting License

This bill alters the one-day Class BWT beer and wine (on-premises) tasting license available in Baltimore County to be a one-day Class BWLT beer, wine, and liquor (on-premises) tasting license. The Class BWLT license may only be issued to a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license holder, and the maximum number of licenses available each year is increased from 12 to 50. A license holder may allow on-premises consumption of liquor and distilled spirits, in addition to beer and wine, for tasting or sampling purposes only in a quantity of not more than one ounce per person. A provision requiring a license holder to dispose of unconsumed alcoholic beverages remaining in open containers after a tasting or sampling is repealed.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Minimal increase in Baltimore County revenues. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: The Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue a 1-day Class BWT beer and wine tasting license. The license may be issued to a Class A beer and light wine license holder or a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license holder, and a maximum of 12 licenses may be issued each year. The fee for the license is

\$10. The same serving restrictions for beer and light wine applicable to the proposed Class BWLT license are applicable to the current Class BWT license.

Background: The Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners is also authorized to issue a wine sampling permit available to nonprofit organizations for consumption of wine for tasting or sampling purposes on Class B (hotels and restaurants) licensed premises, with the consent of the licensee, or on nonlicensed premises.

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: The Baltimore County Board of Liquor License Commissioners estimates it issues multiple Class BWT licenses (\$10 license fee per tasting) to roughly 20 to 30 stores each year. The board cannot accurately estimate how many additional tasting licenses will be applied for and issued due to the maximum limit being raised from 12 to 50, but expects any increase in revenues to be minimal.

Small Business Effect: Additional tasting events could provide more marketing opportunities for small business Maryland wineries which may not be able to afford more costly marketing activities.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 2006
mam/hlb Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 29, 2006

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