

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 148 (Delegate Elmore)
Economic Matters

Somerset County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Chain Grocery Stores

This bill allows the Somerset County Board of License Commissioners to issue a Class A, B, or D beer license; beer and wine license; or beer, wine, and liquor license to a chain grocery store.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Somerset County revenues could increase by a minimal amount. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State law provides that chain grocery stores, supermarkets, and discount houses generally may not be granted, transferred, or issued a Class A, B, or D beer license; beer and wine license; or beer, wine, and liquor license, except by way of renewal. A chain store, supermarket, or discount house that already has such a license may transfer the license to a similar type of establishment.

Class A, B, and D license fees for Somerset County are as follows:

Application Fee		\$300 one-time
Beer License	Class A*	\$100 (6-day), \$125 (7-day)
	Class B	\$200
	Class D	\$200
Beer and Wine License	Class A	\$150 (6-day), \$175 (7-day)
	Class B	\$200
	Class D	\$200
Beer, Wine, and Liquor License	Class A	N/A*
	Class B	\$1,000
	Class D	\$1,000

**Class A licenses are off-sale licenses allowing packaged beer, wine, or liquor to be sold, but not opened or consumed on the premises, while Class B and Class D licenses are on-sale licenses allowing for sale of beer, wine, or liquor for consumption on the premises or elsewhere.*

**The State law provision regarding beer, wine, and liquor licenses does not apply to Somerset County. However, the county is authorized to sell packaged liquor from county dispensaries.*

Local Fiscal Effect: There are two chain grocery stores in Somerset County. If both stores applied for a Class A beer and wine license (7-day), Somerset County revenues would increase by \$350 annually and by \$600 due to the one-time \$300 application fee.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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

Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510