

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 618

(Senator Colburn)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Wicomico County - Alcoholic Beverages - Wine Festival License

This bill increases the Wicomico County Wine Festival license fee from \$25 to \$50 per day.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Wicomico County revenues would increase by \$500 annually. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners may issue a special Wicomico County Wine Festival license to a holder of an existing State retail alcoholic beverages license, a State Class 3 winery license, or a State Class 4 limited winery license. The special wine festival licensee must display and sell wine that is manufactured and processed in any state, price filed in accordance with the Comptroller's regulations, and distributed in Maryland at the time the application is filed. The special wine festival licensee must display and sell wine at retail for consumption on or off the licensed premises on the days and for the hours designated for the wine festival. The license fee is set at \$25 per day.

The Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners must choose one weekend, Friday through Sunday inclusive, annually for the wine festival at a location in Wicomico

County that does not hold an alcoholic beverages license. The board must ensure that the primary focus of the festival is the promotion of Maryland wine.

Background: The Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners was first authorized to issue a special wine festival license in 2003, pursuant to Chapter 123 of 2003. Eighteen counties currently have the authority to issue wine festival licenses. There are 22 wineries in Maryland that produce over 180 wines. Sales of Maryland wine in calendar 2005 totaled roughly \$8.2 million.

Local Revenues: Wicomico County revenues would increase by \$500 from licensing fees generated from the annual wine festival. This estimate is based on 10 wineries paying an additional \$25 per day fee for the two days of the weekend festival.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 463 (Delegate Cane, *et al.*) – Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Wicomico County, Maryland Wineries Association, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2006
ncs/hlb

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