

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 320

(Frederick County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Tables and Chairs at Wineries

This bill allows the holder of a limited winery license in Frederick County to provide tables and chairs for the sale of wine and pomace brandy to persons participating in a tour of the facility or attending a promotional event or other organized activity at the licensed premises.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Any enforcement action taken by the Frederick County Board of License Commissioners could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A Class 4 manufacturer's license is a limited winery license that authorizes the holder to operate a plant for producing and bottling wine and pomace brandy. The holder of a Class 4 manufacturer's license is permitted to:

- sell its products to in-state license holders and authorized out-of-state persons;

- sell up to one quart of each brand of its product per year to each person participating in a guided tour of the facility;
- serve up to six ounces of its product without charge to persons participating in a guided tour of the facility;
- sell its product by the glass to persons participating in a guided tour of the facility; and
- store its products in a segregated area for use at specified statewide promotional activities.

Background: A Class 4 limited winery license is a manufacturer's license issued by the State. State law restricts the quantity of product that a license holder may sell and restricts sales to those who have completed a guided tour of the facility.

A Class A light wine license may be issued by a local alcohol licensing authority to any holder of a Class 4 license, authorizing the holder of the license to sell light wines produced at the winery in any quantity to any consumer. The wine must be sold in a sealed package and may not be consumed on premises. All Class 4 license holders in Frederick County also hold a Class A license. Frederick County regulations currently prohibit tables and chairs at a Class A licensed facility.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 958 (Senators Brinkley and Mooney) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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