

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 483

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Advisory Commission
to Study Luxury Type Restaurants
PG 313-07**

This bill establishes an Advisory Commission to Study Luxury Type Restaurants in Prince George's County. The bill details the purpose, membership, compensation, and duties of the commission. The Board of License Commissioners must provide staff for the advisory commission. The commission must report its findings and recommendations to the Prince George's County Executive and the county Senate and House delegations of the General Assembly by September 1, 2008.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2007 and terminates May 31, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursement for legislative members could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: Prince George's County expenditures for staffing costs and reimbursements for any nonlegislative commission members would be minimal. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Class BLX licenses are issued only to luxury type restaurants, as defined by the regulations of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners. The license is limited to providing alcoholic beverages for consumption on the licensed premises only, with no off-sale privileges to be exercised. The board has complete discretion over to whom the licenses may be issued, the number to be issued, and whether an existing license holder of an alcoholic beverages license may also have an interest in a single Class BLX license. The board may issue an additional license if it determines that the proposed licensed establishment will enhance the recreational, business, and economic development of the area.

Background: The annual license fee for a Class BLX liquor license is \$2,750. The board of license commissioners advises that 64 Class BLX licenses have been approved and are in use. Seven additional licenses have been approved but are not in use. To qualify as a luxury type restaurant, a restaurant must have a seating capacity of at least 100 persons and a capital investment of at least \$800,000 for dining room facilities and kitchen equipment, excluding the cost of land, buildings, or a lease.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2007
ncs/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 22, 2007

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