

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 684

(Cecil County Senators)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Cecil County - Alcoholic Beverages - New Year's Sales

This bill alters a prohibition on the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages on licensed premises in Cecil County on January 1, when it falls on a Sunday, to allow for sale and consumption during normal Sunday hours. Under the bill, sale and consumption would be prohibited between 4 a.m. and 8 or 10 a.m. for certain types of licenses, rather than between 4 a.m. and 1 p.m. as under current law.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect Cecil County finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages in Cecil County is not restricted for any class of license or licensed premises between 7 p.m. and 12 midnight on December 31, when New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday, and between 12 midnight and 4 a.m. on January 1 in any year. When January 1 falls on a Sunday, the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages under any class of license or on any licensed premises is prohibited between 4 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Generally, in Cecil County, the days and hours for the sale of alcoholic beverages are Monday through Saturday, between 6 a.m. and 2 a.m. the following day. Specified licensees may pay an additional license fee in order to sell alcoholic beverages on Sunday for off-premises consumption or on-premises consumption at a restaurant during specified hours (generally beginning at 8 a.m. for off-premises consumption sales and 10 a.m. for on-premises restaurant consumption sales). A Class BLX licensee (larger-scale restaurant), however, does not need to pay an additional license fee for Sunday sales.

Background: The Sunday hours in Cecil County during which alcoholic beverages may be sold by an authorized licensee and consumed on licensed premises were extended by Chapter 189 of 1995 to those specified in current law. Prior to the enactment of Chapter 189, the Sunday hours for all licenses were between 1 p.m. and 10 p.m., which did not conflict with the prohibition on sales and consumption of alcoholic beverages between 4 a.m. and 1 p.m. on January 1, when it falls on a Sunday.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 658 (Cecil County Delegation) – Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2007
ncs/hlb

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