

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 65

(Delegate Eckardt, *et al.*)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Dorchester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Issuance of Additional Class A Beer Licenses

This bill authorizes the Board of License Commissioners of Dorchester County to issue an additional Class A (off-sale) beer license to an establishment already holding a Class B or D license. The board retains the right to limit the number of licenses issued.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill codifies existing practice in Dorchester County.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The Board of License Commissioners in Dorchester County is currently authorized to issue an additional Class A beer license to an establishment holding a Class B beer license or Class D beer license or beer, wine, and liquor license. The Class A beer license allows an establishment to sell beer in sealed packages or containers to be consumed off-premises; the fee for a Class A beer license in Dorchester County is \$200.

A Class B beer license allows the holder to sell beer at retail at any hotel or restaurant for consumption on the premises or elsewhere. The fee in Dorchester County is \$250.

A Class D beer license allows the holder to sell beer at retail, generally at a bar or tavern, for consumption on the premises or elsewhere. The fee in Dorchester County is \$250. Dorchester County does not currently issue a Class D beer, wine, and liquor license. (HB 62/SB 452 of 2007 would authorize issuance of this license for a fee of \$1,500.)

Background: This bill clarifies the requirements for an additional Class A beer license. Dorchester County has historically considered an establishment holding any class of beer, wine, or liquor license for an additional Class A license, which is not consistent with the current restrictions in law. This bill amends the law to reflect current practice, allowing establishments in Dorchester County with an additional Class A license to maintain both licenses. The bill does not include Class C license holders, which would affect one Class C licensed establishment that currently holds an additional Class A license.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 452 (Senator Colburn) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2007
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