

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 616
Economic Matters

(Cecil County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Cecil County - Alcoholic Beverages - Sunday Sales for Class B and Class BLX
Licenses

This bill changes the authorized Sunday hours of operation for holders of Class B (on-sale) licenses or Class BLX beer, wine, and liquor licenses in Cecil County. The bill would authorize licensees to open at 8:00 a.m., rather than 10:00 a.m., on Sundays.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill would not materially affect the finances or operations of Cecil County.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal for Cecil County Class B and Class BLX licensees.

Analysis

Current Law: A Class B license authorizes the holder of the license to sell beer at retail at a hotel or restaurant for consumption on the premises or elsewhere. In Cecil County, the annual license fee for a Class B beer license is \$75; the annual fee for a Class B beer and light wine license is \$90; the annual fee for a Class B beer, wine, and liquor fee is \$750.

A Class BLX license authorizes the holder of the license to sell beer, wine, and liquor at retail for consumption on the licensed premises only. To qualify for this license in Cecil County, an applicant must have made a minimum capital investment of \$600,000 for dining room facilities and kitchen equipment and have minimum seating capacity for 100 persons. The annual fee is \$2,500.

Authorized hours of Sunday operation for holders of a Class B license or Class BLX beer, wine, and liquor license in Cecil County are 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Background: As of April 30, 2006, a total of 115 Class B licenses had been issued in Cecil County. Cecil County advises that extending the authorized Sunday hours of operations for Class B license holders will allow licensed establishments additional opportunities to accommodate boaters and tourists.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 736 (Cecil County Senators) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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

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