

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 507

(Senator Zirkin)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

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**Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages - Wine Tasting**

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This bill authorizes the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners to issue a Class BWLT (beer, wine, and liquor tasting) license for on-site consumption. The bill also revises provisions for the issuance of a Class BWT (beer and wine tasting) license.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Baltimore County alcoholic beverages license revenues could increase by \$3,900 annually. Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Businesses holding either a Class A beer and light wine license or a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license could offer significantly more tasting events.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners may issue a Class BWT or a Class BWLT license to a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license holder. A Class BWT license allows the holder to serve samples of beer and wine to customers. A Class BWLT license allows the holder to serve samples of beer, wine, and liquor to customers.

A Class BWT or a Class BWLT license holder may not serve samples to a person in excess of one ounce of light wine from all brands in a single day and three ounces of beer from all brands in a single day. Additionally, a holder of a Class BWLT license may not serve to a person samples in excess of one-half ounce of liquor from all brands in a single day. At the end of each day for which a tasting license is issued, the holder of the license must dispose of any unconsumed alcoholic beverage remaining in a container that was opened for tasting or sampling.

Fees for a Class BWT and Class BWLT license are in addition to the Class A beer, wine, and liquor annual license fee and are as follows:

- \$20 for a daily tasting license, which may be issued up to 12 times in any license year.
- \$200 annually for a 26-day tasting license, which may be used consecutively or nonconsecutively.
- \$300 annually for a 52-day tasting license, which may be used consecutively or nonconsecutively.

An application and payment for a Class BWLT or Class BWT license must be made at least seven days in advance of the date which the first tasting is requested to occur. Applications for a Class BWLT or Class BWT license must be made on forms provided by the board of license commissioners. An applicant for a 26-day or 52-day tasting license must notify the board of license commissioners, on forms approved by the board, of additional tasting events.

**Current Law:** A Class BWT license allows a business holding either a Class A beer and light wine license or a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license to serve samples of beer and wine to customers. A Class A beer and light wine license and a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license allow sale of alcoholic beverages for off-site consumption. A maximum of 12 one-day Class BWT licenses can be issued each year.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners advises that many Class A (beer, wine and liquor) license holders are issued the maximum 12 Class BWT licenses annually. On average, the board issues 30 single-day Class BWT licenses each month at a price of \$10.

The bill would provide additional revenues of \$10 for each additional daily license issued, \$80 for each 26-day license issued and \$180 for each 52-day license issued. Alcoholic beverages license revenues could increase by as much as \$3,900 annually beginning in 2008. This estimate assumes that one-half of the businesses issued the maximum allowed number of Class BWT licenses would purchase the 26-day tasting

license and one-half of businesses issued the maximum allowed Class BWT licenses would purchase the 52-day tasting license.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 9, 2007  
bfl/hlb Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 27, 2007

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