

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1089
Economic Matters

(Howard County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer Tasting
Ho. Co. 19-07

This bill authorizes Howard County to issue a beer and wine tasting license and repeals the authorization for a wine tasting license.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in Howard County revenues. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: This bill authorizes Howard County to issue a beer and wine tasting (BWT) alcoholic beverages license, which allows for the on-premises consumption of beer or wine for tasting or sampling only. The current wine tasting license is repealed in favor of the new BWT license.

The holder of a BWT license in Howard County is authorized to serve up to one ounce of wine of a given brand, with a total limit of four ounces of all brands served to any person

in a single day. Alternately, the licensee is authorized to serve up to three ounces of beer of a given brand, with a total limit of eight ounces of all brands served to any person in a single day.

A BWT license may be issued to the holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license or a Class A beer and wine license. The annual license fee is \$100 in addition to the fee of any other alcoholic beverages license.

Current Law: The Howard County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue a wine tasting license, which permits the on-premises tasting or sampling of wine containing not more than 14% alcohol by volume. The licensee is authorized to serve up to one ounce of a given brand, with a limit of four ounces served to any one person in a single day.

The license may be issued to holders of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license or a Class A beer and wine license. The annual fee is \$100 in addition to the fee for any other alcoholic beverages license.

Background: As of April 30, 2006, Howard County has issued 1 Class A beer and wine license and 51 Class A beer, wine, and liquor licenses.

Local Fiscal Effect: Howard County could experience a minimal increase in revenue if additional establishments apply for the new tasting license. It is assumed that any additional licensing and enforcement activity could be handled with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 16, 2007
ncs/hlb

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