

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 401 (St. Mary's County Delegation)
Economic Matters

St. Mary's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Wineries

This bill specifies that a winery in St. Mary's County that is issued a Class A/Class 4 license may not operate more than five off-site retail locations for wine sampling or sale of wine for consumption on and off the premises.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill would not materially affect St. Mary's County finances.

Small Business Effect: Potential positive impact on Class 4 limited wineries in St. Mary's County.

Analysis

Current Law: Nineteen counties (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester) are authorized to issue a Class A light wine license to holders of a Class 4 manufacturer's license. Eight counties (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Somerset, Talbot, and Washington) are currently authorized to issue a Class A light wine license to holders of a Class 3 winery license.

A Class A light wine license authorizes the holder to keep for sale and to sell light wines produced at the winery to any consumer at retail at the place described in the license. The light wine must be delivered in a sealed package and may not be opened or the contents consumed on the premises.

Background: There are currently no Class 4 limited wineries located in St. Mary's County but there are vineyards located in the county that could become licensed as limited wineries in the future.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): St. Mary's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2008
mll/hlb

Analysis by: Erik P. Timme

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510