

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 221 (Senator Edwards)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Garrett County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class B Beer and Light Wine License

This bill establishes a Class B beer and light wine license in Garrett County and authorizes the Board of License Commissioners to issue the license for use in specified hotels, motels, inns, or restaurants. The board may issue a license with or without a catering option. Issuing and annual licensing fees are set at \$350 for a license without a catering option and \$475 for a license with a catering option. The board is authorized to adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of the bill.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Garrett County revenues could increase by \$500 in FY 2009 due to currently licensed establishments changing their license class and adding the catering option. Revenues would increase by \$250 annually thereafter.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. The new license could result in increased sales for eligible establishments.

Analysis

Current Law: In general, a Class B beer and light wine license must be issued by the license issuing authority of the county in which the place of business is located. The holder may keep for sale and sell beer and light wines at retail at any hotel or restaurant,

at the place described in the license, for consumption on the premises or elsewhere. However, this provision of law does not apply to Garrett County.

Local Fiscal Effect: Garrett County assumes that two currently licensed establishments would change their license from a Class D beer and light wine on-sale license to a Class B beer and light wine license created by the bill and that each would add the catering option.

As a result, it is estimated that county revenues would increase by \$500 in fiscal 2009 as each establishment would pay \$250 (a one-time issuing fee of \$125 and an annual fee of \$125) in addition to the \$350 that they currently pay for their current Class D license. Future year revenues would increase by \$250 annually.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 7, 2008
ncs/hlb

Analysis by: Michael Sanelli

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