

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 626

(Senator Muse)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Convention Center License

This emergency bill establishes a Class B-CC (convention center) beer, wine, and liquor license in Prince George's County for a hotel equipped with certain accommodations and facilities and specifies that the hotel's receipts from the sale of alcohol cannot exceed receipts from the sale of other services. The annual license fee for a Class B-CC license is \$20,000. The sale of alcoholic beverages, as well as dancing and live entertainment, are authorized throughout the licensed establishment, both indoors and outdoors, and including in locked and prestocked private bars in guest rooms, subject to a restriction on rooms for patrons under age 21. The bill also exempts a holder of a Class B-CC license from certain requirements and restrictions concerning the issuance of alcoholic beverage licenses to corporations and other specified business entities and from restrictions as to the maximum number of licenses allowed to be issued.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County revenues would increase by \$20,000 annually due to the collection of a Class B-CC alcoholic beverages annual license fee. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Prince George's County can issue a special Class B license known as Class BH for hotels; the annual license fee is \$3,850.

Background: The Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners had been sued by a Tennessee-based hotel company (Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center) in 2007 over the board's refusal to grant the hotel a liquor license. In November 2007, the board and hotel company agreed to issue the county's standard liquor license for hotels. However, under the agreement, the board indicated that it would be allowed to reconsider the matter if the General Assembly passed legislation creating a new alcoholic beverages license.

The hotel will be the centerpiece of the \$2 billion National Harbor Project located in southern Prince George's County along the Potomac River. The 300-acre National Harbor Project will encompass 10 acres of meeting space and will include numerous hotels and restaurants along with retail and residential development.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1479 (Prince George's County Delegation) – Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2008
mll/hlb

Analysis by: Evan M. Isaacson

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