

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1087

(Washington County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Washington County - Alcoholic Beverages - Catering, Stadium, and Sidewalk
Café Licenses**

This bill establishes a caterer's license, stadium license, and sidewalk café license in Washington County and authorizes the Board of License Commissioners to issue the licenses to specified persons under specified conditions. The bill specifies the fees and the terms and conditions for each type of license. Annual license fees are set at \$1,500 for a caterer's license, \$2,000 for a stadium license, and \$500 for a sidewalk café license.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Washington County revenues could increase by at least \$2,000 beginning in FY 2009. County expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. The new licenses could result in increased sales for eligible establishments.

Analysis

Current Law: Washington County does not issue a caterer's license, stadium license, and sidewalk café license. A pouring license entitles a person to only sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises. The annual fee for each pouring license is

\$350 for a beer license; \$400 for a beer and light wine license; \$750 for a beer, light wine, and liquor license; and \$250 for a Sunday sale license.

Local Fiscal Effect: The bill creates three new alcoholic beverage licenses in Washington County.

Caterer's License and Sidewalk Café License

The bill allows current Class B Restaurant or Hotel (on- and off-sale) and Class P (pouring) license holders to obtain the new caterer's license. In addition, a current Class B or Class P (pouring) license holder could obtain the new sidewalk café license. There are currently 65 Class P licensees and 29 Class B licensees in the county. The county is unable, at this time, to estimate the number of licensees that will apply for the new licenses, however, county revenues would increase by \$1,500 for each caterer's license issued and by \$500 for each sidewalk café license issued.

Stadium License

The bill creates a stadium (on-sale) license and allows the holder of the license to sell beer and light wine under specified conditions. It is assumed that the license will be issued to the owners of the Hagerstown Suns baseball team, which play at Memorial Stadium in Hagerstown. As a result, county revenues would increase by \$2,000 annually.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2008
ncs/hlb Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 5, 2008

Analysis by: Michael Sanelli

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