

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 428  
Economic Matters

(Harford County Delegation)

Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs

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**Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Cafe License**

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This bill establishes a 7-day Class B Cafe beer and wine license in Harford County.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2008.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Harford County revenues could increase by \$7,900 annually from the issuance of five new Class B Cafe licenses. County expenditures would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential revenue increase for small businesses meeting new eligibility guidelines.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The bill establishes a Class B Cafe beer and wine license in Harford County with an annual license fee of \$1,575. The cafe license is a seven day-a-week license, entitling the holder to sell beer for consumption on and off the premises and to hold on-premise wine tasting every day of the year. The Harford County Liquor Control Board may not issue more than five cafe licenses and is required to set seating capacity requirements for the cafe-licensed establishments. The liquor control board is also required to determine that adequate tables, chairs, food, and facilities for food preparation exist. The cafe license may not be used for off premise catering.

Additionally, the bill states that not more than 10% of the establishment's square footage can be dedicated to the public display of beer and wines offered for sale; and each month, average gross food receipts (as well as other items approved by the board) must exceed 50% of the average receipts obtained from the sale of beer and wine for on-premise consumption.

**Current Law/Background:** A Class B beer and light wine license is issued by the liquor control board and allows the licensee to sell beer and wine at retail for consumption on the premises or elsewhere. Harford County has several Class B licensing categories for hotels, restaurants and inns (B-1, B-2, B-3). License classifications are based on a number of parameters, including the type of establishment applying for a license, food sales, seating capacity, the number of days during the week the establishment is operating (six days a week or seven days a week), and capital investments.

**Local Effect:** A maximum of five cafe licenses could be issued in Harford County at a cost of \$1,575 per license. Accordingly, Harford County revenues could increase by \$7,875 each year.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 63 (Harford County Senators) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Harford County, Harford County Liquor Control Board, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 4, 2008  
ncs/hlb

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