

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 828
Economic Matters

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Montgomery County - Alcoholic Beverages - Additional Class B Licenses
MC 818-08

This bill repeals the minimum capital investment and minimum seating capacity requirements for applicants seeking an additional Class B beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license in Montgomery County.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Montgomery County revenues would increase by \$2,500 for each new license issued. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful for businesses that are able to obtain an additional license.

Analysis

Current Law: Upon meeting specified criteria, the holder of a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license may obtain one additional on-sale license. Applicants for this additional license must:

- have a place of business located in the State;

- have been the holder of a license for at least one year;
- operate a restaurant, as defined by regulations of the board of license commissioners;
- have a capital investment of at least \$250,000 for restaurant facilities, excluding the cost of land and buildings; and
- have a seating capacity of at least 125 persons.

Local Fiscal Effect: The Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners estimates there are currently 417 Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses in the county. According to the Comptroller's Office, there were 438 of these licenses as of April 30, 2007. It is unknown how many licensees would benefit from the bill's provisions, but county revenues would increase by \$2,500 for each additional license that could be issued. Monitoring of any additional licenses could be handled with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery County, Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2008
ncs/hlb

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