

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 18

(Senator Conway)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

**Baltimore City - 43rd Legislative District - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer, Wine, and
Liquor Tasting License**

This bill authorizes the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners to issue a Class BWLT beer, wine, and liquor tasting license for on-site consumption in Ward 27, Precinct 32 of the 43rd Legislative District of Baltimore City.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City alcoholic beverage license revenues could increase by \$1,500 annually from two establishments. Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. However, there would be a meaningful effect for the several affected businesses holding a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license in Ward 27, Precinct 32 of the 43rd Legislative District of Baltimore City.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill establishes a new license for the tasting of alcoholic beverages available in Ward 27, Precinct 32 of the 43rd Legislative District of Baltimore City. The Board of Liquor License Commissioners may issue the new license to a holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license for on-site tasting or sampling of beer, light wine, or

liquor. The board may issue up to 12 daily tasting licenses per year for a fee of \$20 each. The board may also issue a 26- or 52-day tasting license for \$200 and \$300 respectively. Sample size is restricted per person, per day, to one ounce for light wine, three ounces for beer, and a half ounce for liquor. Applicants for a Class BWLT license must submit the application form established by the board at least seven days in advance of the first day of the tasting event, as specified on the form.

Current Law: Baltimore City has the Class WS license for wine sampling and the Class BWT license for beer and wine tasting. The holder of either class of license is permitted to serve the relevant type of alcoholic beverage in amounts specified in §§ 8-403 and 8-403.1 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article. Each license is valid for one day and no applicant may be granted more than 12 licenses per year.

Background: Similar legislation for Baltimore County was enacted in 2007 (SB 507/Chapter 561).

Local Revenues: Baltimore City advises that only two establishments could apply for the new Class BWLT license. If these two facilities were granted the Class BWLT license, the maximum amount that Baltimore City could collect in fees is \$1,480.

Small Business Effect: Several businesses holding a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license in Ward 27, Precinct 32 of the 43rd Legislative District of Baltimore City could offer significantly more tasting events than before. These businesses would also have an advantage over Class A-2 license holders or Class A license holders outside of the ward.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 15, 2008
ncs/hlb

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