

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 899  
Economic Matters

(Carroll County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs

---

**Carroll County - Alcoholic Beverages - Special Class C License for Arts Center**

---

This bill authorizes the Carroll County Board of License Commissioners to grant a special Class C beer, wine, and liquor license for use at any bona fide entertainment held at an arts center on West Main Street in Westminster. The license can be granted for up to 10 and 40 events per year but may not be issued to a licensee more than once a year. The license would not preclude a licensee from obtaining a single event special Class C license.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Carroll County revenues could decrease by a minimal amount annually beginning in FY 2009. County expenditures would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential positive impact on a facility that would be authorized to acquire a special Class C beer, wine, and liquor license.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Carroll County Board of License Commissioners can issue a special Class C beer, wine, and liquor license for use at any bona fide entertainment held or conducted by any Carroll County fire department. The license can be granted to a fire

department one time a year, and the purchase price depends on how many events per year it will be used. License fees are as follows:

- Up to 10 events per year – \$125
- Up to 20 events per year – \$250
- Up to 30 events per year – \$375
- Up to 40 events per year – \$500

Issuance of a special Class C license does not preclude a fire company from obtaining a single event special Class C license. The fee for a single event special Class C license in Carroll County is \$50 per day.

**Background:** The Carroll Arts Center is located in downtown Westminster and consists of a 263-seat theatre, the Tevis Gallery, three art classrooms, and offices. The center hosts films, concerts, art exhibits, and other cultural and entertainment events. The center can also be rented for special events and concerts. In 2007, the Carroll Arts Center applied for seven one-day single event special Class C licenses, at a cost of \$50 each.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The issuance of one additional special Class C alcoholic beverages license would result in annual license revenues of between \$125 to \$500, depending on the number of events the license is purchased for. Authorizing a facility to acquire a special Class C alcoholic beverages license would also result in a decrease in revenues from the issuance of single event special Class C licenses. The maximum decrease in licensing fees could total \$1,500. The number of special event permits that would be utilized in subsequent years cannot be estimated at this time.

---

### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

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

---

Analysis by: Erik P. Timme

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

