

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 591

(Delegate Kullen, *et al.*)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Calvert County - Winery Special Event Permits - Farmers' Markets

This bill increases existing limits on the number of winery special event permits that may be issued to a licensed Class 4 Maryland limited winery in Calvert County. The bill authorizes the issuance of up to 12 winery special event permits during the calendar year at all farmers' markets in Calvert County, including the Calvert County Farmer's Market and the North Beach Friday Night Farmers' Market.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal increase in general fund revenues. The fee for the winery special event permit is \$25 per event.

Local Effect: None. Calvert County can handle any enforcement related to additional winery special event permits with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful for Class 4 limited wineries in Calvert County.

Analysis

Current Law: The Comptroller's Office may issue up to 12 winery special event permits to a holder of a Class 4 Maryland limited winery license in any given calendar year. A permit may not exceed three consecutive days and no more than three winery special event permits may be issued to any given limited winery for use in the same political subdivision during a calendar year.

The permit may only be issued for an event which (1) has as its major purpose an activity other than the sale and promotion of alcoholic beverages and for which the participation of the winery is a subordinate activity; (2) is approved by the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Comptroller's Office; and (3) is held on a nonlicensed premises or a premises on which a person may obtain a temporary alcoholic beverages license.

A winery special event permit authorizes the permit holder to provide one-ounce samples, sell wine by the glass for on-premises consumption, and sell no more than four 750 ml bottles of wine to a consumer for off-premises consumption. The fee for a winery special event permit is \$25 per event.

Background: The Calvert County Farmer's Market operates on Saturdays from April through November. The North Beach Friday Night Farmer's Market is open on Fridays from June through October.

State Fiscal Effect: General fund revenues increase by \$25 beginning in fiscal 2009 for each special event permit issued. If all four of the Class 4 limited wineries in Calvert County apply for the maximum number of special event permits available for use at the farmers' markets, general fund revenues increase by \$1,200 annually beginning in fiscal 2010.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 407 is identified as a cross file; however, the bills are not identical.

Information Source(s): Comptroller's Office, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Calvert County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2009
mlm/mwc Revised - House Third Reader - April 1, 2009

Analysis by: Jennifer K. Botts

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