

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1512
Economic Matters

(Frederick County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Frederick County - Multivenue Wine License

This bill authorizes the Frederick County Board of License Commissioners to issue a one-day Multivenue wine (MVW) license to a bona fide nonprofit organization. A holder of an MVW license may conduct simultaneous wine events at up to five venues that are within walking distance of one another and located in districts that permit wine consumption. Pursuant to board regulations, at each event, an MVW license holder: (1) may sell wine by the glass for on-premises consumption or by the bottle for off-premises consumption; (2) may allow a Class 4 limited winery licensee to conduct a wine tasting at the event; and (3) must prohibit a guest from transporting wine from one venue to another.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not specify a license fee. However, it is assumed that the bill will result in a potential minimal increase in revenues for Frederick County. Frederick County advises that it knows of one organization that has expressed an interest in obtaining an MVW license. Potential minimal increase in county expenditures for enforcement.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful impact on nonprofit organizations that conduct successful fundraisers under an MVW license and small businesses that sell wine at the fundraisers.

Analysis

Background: Nonprofit organizations in Frederick County are currently eligible to apply for a one-day special Class C licenses. The fees for these licenses (\$10 for beer/beer and light wine, \$30 for beer, wine, and liquor) are calculated per license, per day, and per location. Thus, an organization that wants to hold an event covered by the license created by this bill will have to apply for multiple licenses to hold an event simultaneously at several locations.

The county also allows a group that has obtained a special Class C beer and light wine or beer, wine, and liquor license for a special anniversary or special event to sell collectible bottles of wine or liquor commemorating the event for consumption off premises. The sales may only take place on the day authorized by the license for the special event. The county does not charge an extra fee for this privilege.

Local Expenditures: Frederick County has one full-time inspector and 305 active alcoholic beverages licenses located throughout the county, which has the largest land area of any county in the State. Given the strain already placed on the county's inspector and the multiple venues holding simultaneous events under an MVW license, enforcement of these licenses will result in a minimal increase in expenditures for the county.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 19, 2009
ncs/mwc Revised - House Third Reader - April 11, 2009

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