

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 833
Economic Matters

(Montgomery County Delegation)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Montgomery County - Winery Special Event Permits - Montgomery County
Agricultural Fair
MC 928-09**

This bill authorizes the Comptroller's Office to issue a winery special event permit to a licensed Class 4 Maryland limited winery for use during the entire length of the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair.

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. Montgomery County can handle any enforcement related to additional winery special event permits with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful for Class 4 Maryland limited wineries.

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.

State Fiscal Effect: The Comptroller's Office indicates there are currently 34 Class 4 limited wineries in Maryland. If half of the wineries elect to pay the \$25 special event permit and participate in the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, general fund revenues will increase by \$425 annually beginning in fiscal 2010.

The 2009 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair is scheduled for August 14-22 in Gaithersburg. The fair began in 1945, and is today the largest county fair in the State of Maryland.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2009
ncs/mwc

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