

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 983

(Senator Conway, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Baltimore City - 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 42 of the 41st Legislative District of Baltimore City; Ward 27, Precinct 41 of the 43rd Legislative District of Baltimore City; and Ward 11, Precinct 5 of the 44th Legislative District of Baltimore City.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in revenues for Baltimore City from license fees. Enforcement can be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful effect for businesses holding Class A beer, wine, and liquor licenses in the affected areas in Baltimore City.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill establishes a new license for the tasting of alcoholic beverages available in Ward 27, Precinct 42 of the 41st Legislative District of Baltimore City; Ward 27, Precinct 41 of the 43rd Legislative District of Baltimore City; and Ward 11, Precinct 5 of the 44th 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 statute. 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).

Small Business Effect: Businesses holding Class A beer, wine, and liquor license in the affected areas of Baltimore City may offer significantly more tasting events than before. These businesses will also have an advantage over Class A-2 license holders or Class A license holders outside of the wards.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 18 of 2008 was passed by the Senate and passed with amendments in the House. The two versions of the bill were not reconciled by the end of the 2008 Session.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2009
ncs/mwc Revised - Senate Third Reader - April 8, 2009

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