

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 884

(Senators Brinkley and Mooney)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

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Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Wine Festival License

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This bill authorizes the Frederick County Board of License Commissioners to issue a special wine festival (WF) license that entitles licensees to display and sell at retail wine for consumption on or off the premises at the Frederick County Wine Festival. The license fee is \$20.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2009.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal increase in Frederick County revenues from special wine festival license fees. Potential minimal increase in county expenditures for enforcement.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** Applicants for the wine festival license must already possess a retail alcoholic beverages license, a State Class 3 winery license, or a State Class 4 limited winery license. However, a wine festival licensee is not precluded from holding another alcoholic beverages license of a different class or nature from the prerequisite licenses. Wine displayed or sold by a licensee at the festival must be distributed in the State.

The board may choose two weekends per year for the festival and must choose locations that do not have an alcoholic beverages license. The board must adopt regulations to implement the bill's provisions.

**Current Law:** The Frederick County Board of License Commissioners is not currently authorized to issue wine festival licenses.

**Local Expenditures:** Frederick County is a popular wine producing region of the State. The county has one alcoholic beverages inspector, a significant number of licensees, and the largest land area of any county in the State – a combination that has put a strain on its enforcement resources. The creation of another license requiring county enforcement may result in additional county expenditures.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 721 (Frederick County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 2009  
ncs/mwc

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