

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 400  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Beitzel)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

**Garrett County - Wine Festival License - Qualifications - Hearing and Notice**

---

This bill alters the qualifications for obtaining a wine festival license in Garrett County by extending eligibility to a person eligible for any type of special Class C license issued by the Garrett County Board of License Commissioners. The bill also requires the board of license commissioners to hold a hearing on each application for a wine festival license and to publish a notice of the application in a newspaper of general circulation at least seven days before the hearing.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill does not affect county licensing revenue and codifies current practice regarding public hearings on wine festival licenses.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Garrett County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue one wine festival license annually. The board must approve one or two days, excluding Sunday, annually for the wine festival, provided that the days selected do not occur on the same weekend as the Maryland Wine Festival. A wine festival license may be issued to the holder of an existing retail alcoholic beverage license, State Class 3 winery license, or a State Class 4 limited winery license.

**Background:** Wine festivals are held annually throughout the State. They are seen as advertising and publicity events for businesses participating in the event. Wine festival licenses may be issued in Baltimore City and Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester counties. Several counties have restrictions on when wine festivals may be held, so as to not coincide with the Maryland Wine Festival, which is typically held in July, August, or September of each year in Carroll County.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The bill expands the eligibility criteria for a county issued wine festival license. The county indicates that as a result of the bill, one nonprofit entity in the county that is eligible for a special Class C license would now be eligible for a wine festival license. The county issues one wine festival license annually; the license fee is \$50. Because the bill does not alter the number of licenses that may be issued, the bill has no effect on county license revenue.

The county currently holds a public hearing before issuing a wine festival license. As such, the bill codifies current practice.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 17, 2010  
mpc/hlb

---

Analysis by: Michael Sanelli

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