

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 552 (Wicomico County Delegation)  
Economic Matters

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**Wicomico County - Alcoholic Beverages - Micro-Brewery Licenses**

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This bill authorizes a Class 7 micro-brewery licensee in Wicomico County to sell beer at retail to customers for consumption off the licensed premises in refillable containers that are sealed by the licensee at the time of each refill.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill does not substantively affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful for a holder of a Class 7 micro-brewery license in Wicomico County.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Class 7 micro-brewery (on- and off-sale) licenses are issued by the Comptroller's Office for use in 17 jurisdictions – Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Talbot, and Wicomico counties; Baltimore City and Annapolis. In general, the license is issued only to a holder of a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license that is issued for use on the premises of a restaurant with exceptions for Montgomery and Prince George's counties. License holders may sell up to 4,000 barrels of beer to customers for consumption on the premises.

Except in Wicomico County, a holder of a Class 7 micro-brewery license may, in part, brew and bottle beer at the licensed location for sale to go.

**Background:** There are currently 15 Class 7 micro-brewery licenses issued in the State; however, none are currently located in Wicomico County. There are 46 Class B beer, wine, and liquor license holders in Wicomico County.

There is only one pub-brewery license issued in the State and that is for a location within the City of Annapolis.

**Small Business Effect:** To the extent that micro-breweries are able to sell beer directly to consumers for consumption off the premises, there could be a potential meaningful impact on these license holders.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 195 (Senator Colburn) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Wicomico County, Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 9, 2010  
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