

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 553 (Wicomico County Delegation)
Economic Matters

Dorchester and Wicomico Counties - Alcoholic Beverages - Pub-Brewery and
Micro-Brewery Licenses

This bill authorizes the Comptroller to issue one Class 6 pub-brewery license or one Class 7 micro-brewery license, but not both, in an enterprise zone in Dorchester County and in Wicomico County to a person who holds no more than three Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses. The bill also repeals provisions of law regarding the issuing of Class 6 pub-brewery licenses and Class 7 micro-brewery licenses by the Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful for one small business in Dorchester and Wicomico counties as the bill only authorizes one Class 6 pub-brewery license or a Class 7 micro-brewery license to be issued in each county.

Analysis

Current Law: In Wicomico County, the Board of License Commissioners may issue one Class 6 pub-brewery license or one Class 7 micro-brewery license, but not both, to a person that holds no more than three Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses. A Class 6

pub-brewery license or a Class 7 micro-brewery license may be issued only for a location in an enterprise zone in the City of Salisbury.

A holder of a Class 7 micro-brewery license may only sell beer for off-premises consumption to a licensed wholesaler.

Background: A Class 6 pub-brewery license is issued by the Comptroller to a holder of a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license. In part, the holder of a Class 6 pub-brewery license may sell malt beverages for off-premises consumption in sealed refillable containers. The license fee is \$500 per license year.

Class 7 micro-brewery (on- and off-sale) licenses are issued by the Comptroller 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. The license fee is \$500 per license year.

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.

The bill corrects provisions of law which authorize and limit the Board of License Commissioners in Wicomico County to issue either a Class 6 pub-brewery license or Class 7 micro-brewery license to a person that holds no more than three Class B beer, wine and liquor licenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 194 (Senator Colburn) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 2010
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