

Department of Legislative Services
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 573
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class A/Class 4 Light Wine Licenses
PG 312-10**

This bill authorizes the issuance of a Class A light wine license in Prince George's County and exempts any winery applying for such a license from any quotas as to the number of licenses in the election district where the winery is located.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County finances will not be directly affected since there are no Class 4 manufacturer's license holders in the county at this time.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. The bill could encourage the establishment of wineries in Prince George's County.

Analysis

Current Law: Twenty counties are authorized to issue a Class A light wine license. Only three counties (Allegany, Charles, and Prince George's) are not authorized to issue this type of license.

Background: A Class A light wine license may be issued to a holder of a Class 4 manufacturer's license. The annual fee for a Class A light wine license is generally \$50, although some counties have enacted different fees. A holder of a Class A light wine license is authorized to keep for sale and sell light wines produced at

the winery in any quantity, and to any consumer at retail, at the place described in the license. The light wine must be delivered in a sealed package or container which may not be opened or the contents consumed on the licensed premises.

Local Fiscal Effect: There is no fiscal impact in fiscal 2011 since there are currently no Class 4 manufacturer's license holders in Prince George's County. Should the county grant a Class A license in the future, revenues would increase by \$50 due to the accompanying annual license fee.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1022 of 2009 passed the House, received a hearing before the Senate Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, and had no further action taken on it.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Comptroller, Department of Legislative Services

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

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