

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1056
Economic Matters

(Dorchester County Delegation)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Dorchester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Restaurant Seating Capacity

This bill lowers the minimum seating capacity requirement from 75 to 50 for bona fide restaurants, motels and hotels with restaurant facilities in Dorchester County to obtain a Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license from the Dorchester County Board of License Commissioners.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Dorchester County revenues increase by \$1,000 beginning in FY 2011 for each new license issued. County expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful for each restaurant or hotel that is able to obtain a Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license.

Analysis

Current Law: Bona fide restaurants, motels, and hotels having restaurant facilities for serving full-course meals at least twice daily and seating capacity at tables for at least 75 persons, not including seats at bars or counters, may obtain a Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license from the Dorchester County Board of License Commissioners. The annual license fee is \$1,000.

Local Fiscal Effect: Dorchester County revenues will increase by \$1,000 beginning in fiscal 2011 for each new Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license issued. The number of establishments that may obtain the license cannot be reliably estimated. The county has currently issued 24 Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor licenses, of which 15 are located in Cambridge.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2010
ncs/hlb

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