

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1496  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Aumann)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages - Tasting Licenses - Fees**

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This bill authorizes the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners to issue a Class BWT beer and light wine tasting or a Class BWLT beer, wine, and liquor tasting license for a 104-day period which may be used consecutively or nonconsecutively. The annual fee is \$400.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal increase in Baltimore County license revenue. Expenditures are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A Class BWT license can only be issued to a holder of a Class A beer and light wine license. A Class BWT license authorizes the holder to allow the on-premises consumption of wine or beer for tasting. A person may consume wine or beer covered by a Class BWT license in quantities not exceeding one ounce of wine from all brands in a single day; and three ounces of beer from all brands in a single day.

A Class BWLT license can only be issued to a holder of a Class A beer, wine and liquor license. A Class BWLT license authorizes the holder to allow the on-premises

consumption of beer, wine, and liquor. A person may consume beer, wine, and liquor covered by a Class BWT license in quantities not exceeding one ounce of wine from all brands in a single day; three ounces of beer from all brands in a single day; and one-half ounce of liquor from all brands in a single day.

The license fees for a Class BWT and Class BWLT license are as follows:

- \$20 for a daily license, which may be issued not more than 12 times in any annual license year;
- \$200 annually for a 26-day tasting license, which may be used consecutively or nonconsecutively;
- \$300 annually for a 52-day tasting license, which may be used consecutively or nonconsecutively.

These fees are in addition to the Class A annual license fee.

**Background:** Baltimore County currently has 167 Class A licenses. There are currently 46 Class BWLT licenses and only 1 Class BWT license.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Although the bill establishes a \$400 licensing fee, it is likely that applicants who are interested in obtaining a new 104-day tasting license will already have a Class BWT/BWLT license that allows tasting for the maximum number of days that is allowed under current law (52 days). Accordingly, Baltimore County licensing revenues will increase by \$100 for any 104-day license that is issued to a current holder of a 52-day license (which represents the difference between the 52-day tasting license fee of \$300 and the \$400 fee for a 104-day license), and by \$400 for any 104-day license that is issued to a new Class BWT/BWLT applicant. Baltimore County advises that it does not anticipate the bill to significantly impact the number of tasting licenses that are requested.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 19, 2010  
mlm/hlb

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