

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Revised

Senate Bill 47

(Senator Colburn)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Dorchester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Restaurant Seating Capacity

This bill lowers, from 75 to 50, the minimum seating requirement in Dorchester County for a restaurant, motel, or hotel to have a Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential increase in alcoholic beverages license revenue for Dorchester County to the extent that additional licenses are issued in the county.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. The relaxed seating capacity requirement may encourage the establishment of new restaurants in Dorchester County.

Analysis

Current Law: In Dorchester County, bona fide restaurants, motels, and hotels having restaurant facilities for serving full-course meals at least twice daily and seating capacity at tables for 75 or more persons, not including seats at bars or counters, may obtain a license from the Board of License Commissioners. This license entitles the licensee to sell beer, wine, and liquor for consumption on the premises only. The annual license fee is \$1,000.

Background: There are currently 24 Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor licenses issued in Dorchester County to restaurants, motels, or hotels.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 22, 2010
ncs/hlb Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 23, 2010

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