

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Revised

House Bill 1478

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Prince George's County - Beer, Wine, and Liquor Tastings  
PG 320-10

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This bill establishes a beer tasting license; a beer/wine tasting license; and a beer, wine, and liquor tasting (BWL) license in Prince George's County. A beer tasting license is available to the holder of a beer (B) license; a beer and wine (BW) license; or a beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license. A beer/wine tasting license is available to the holder of a beer and wine (BW) license or a beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license. A beer, wine, and liquor tasting (BWL) license is available only to the holder of a beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license. The holder of a beer (B) license may only obtain a beer tasting license. The additional fee for the new beer tasting license is \$110. The county board of license commissioners is required to set the annual fee for a beer/wine tasting license and a beer, wine, and liquor tasting (BWL) license.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Prince George's County alcoholic beverages license fee revenue may increase by \$6,600 annually. Expenditures are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful. Holders of a beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license; a beer and wine (BW) license; or a beer (B) license may realize increased sales volumes resulting from the use of tasting license.

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## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** Current law limitations applicable to wine tasting licenses apply, including that a wine may not contain more than 14% alcohol and that no more than one ounce from each given brand of wine may be served to any one person. No more than three ounces of each brand of beer may be served to any one person. For liquor, the tasting license allows the consumption of up to one-half ounce of a given brand, and 1.5 ounces from all brands by a single individual on a given day.

**Current Law:** In Prince George's County, there is a special wine tasting (WT) license with an annual license fee of \$110. The license is issued only to holders of a beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license or a beer and wine (BW) license. The license permits the consumption of wine, containing not more than 14% of alcohol by volume, for tasting or sampling purposes only. The licensee may not serve more than 1 ounce from each given brand to any one person.

**Local Revenues:** In January 2010, there were 52 wine tasting licenses issued in the county and an additional 529 licensees (with licenses currently in use) that would qualify for a tasting license under the bill. Based on a number of factors, including the location and size of the establishment, the county board of license commissioners estimates that about 60 of these additional licensees would seek a new tasting license under the bill. Accordingly, county alcoholic beverages license fee revenue is estimated to increase by \$6,600 annually (60 licensees x \$110).

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 26, 2010  
ncs/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - April 6, 2010

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