

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 399
Economic Matters

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

Washington County - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer Tasting License

This bill authorizes the Washington County Board of License Commissioners to issue a beer tasting license to the holder of a Class A or Class B beer and wine license or a Class A or Class B beer, wine, and liquor license. The annual license fee is \$100. The board must regulate the quantity of beer served to each person, the number of bottles or other containers of beer being served, and the size of the bottles or other containers. The board is authorized to adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of the bill.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Washington County revenues increase by approximately \$2,500 annually beginning in FY 2011. County expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful for establishments that choose to hold a beer tasting event as they could realize increased revenue.

Analysis

Current Law: Washington County is not authorized to issue a beer tasting license.

Local Fiscal Effect: The Washington County Board of License Commissioners advises that there are 45 Class A licensees and 27 Class B licensees who would be eligible for the beer tasting license created by the bill. The board estimates that no more than 25 of these

establishments would apply for the license. As a result, it is estimated that county licensing revenue will increase by approximately \$2,500 annually beginning in fiscal 2011. To the extent that more or fewer licenses are issued, licensing revenue will vary accordingly.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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

Analysis by: Michael Sanelli

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510