

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 449 (Senators Brinkley and Mooney)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Sales Hours

This bill alters the hours during which authorized Class A (off-sale) license holders may sell alcoholic beverages in Frederick County.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential increase in Frederick County expenditures for enforcement activities. County revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential increase in revenues for Class A license holders.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Under the bill, Class A (off-sale) license holders may be open from 6 a.m. until 2 a.m. the following day on Monday through Saturday and on Sunday from 11 a.m. until 2 a.m. the following day. Under current law, Class A (off-sale) license holders may be open from 6 a.m. until midnight on Monday through Saturday and on Sunday from 1 p.m. until midnight.

In addition, a Class A (off-sale) license holder with a special Sunday opening permit may commence sales at 11 a.m. on Sunday. Under current law, Class A (off-sale) license holders with a special Sunday opening permit may conduct sales on Sunday from 12 p.m. (noon) to 12 a.m. (midnight).

Local Fiscal Effect: Frederick County indicates that expanding the hours of operations for Class A license holders may increase enforcement activities for the county's liquor control board inspector and sheriff's office. While there are additional liquor control board inspectors authorized for the county, they are not currently funded. As a result, the bill places an additional burden on current resources, which may not be able to be absorbed. Thus, county expenditures may need to increase to meet additional enforcement activities due to the increased hours of operation authorized by the bill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 1034 of 2009 received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HB 1541, passed the House and received a favorable report from the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2010
mpc/hlb

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