

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1274  
Economic Matters

(Charles County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Charles County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class B-Stadium (Baseball Stadium) On-Sale Beer, Wine and Liquor License**

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This bill converts the Charles County Class B-Stadium (Baseball Stadium) on-sale beer and light wine licensing into an on-sale beer, wine, and liquor license. A patron may consume and carry beer and wine anywhere on the stadium premises; however, a patron may consume liquor only in the enclosed stadium dining area or bar and may not carry liquor out of these areas. The Charles County Board of License Commissioners may adopt additional regulations on the number of outlets authorized to dispense alcoholic beverages, the manner of dispensing alcoholic beverages, and the hours and days of the sale of alcoholic beverages at the licensed venue. The annual fee remains at \$2,200.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2011.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. Charles County alcoholic beverages license fee revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A Class B-Stadium license may only be issued to the owner of a professional team franchise or a private concessionaire that is under contract with either the county or a professional baseball team franchise. Beer and light wine may only be

sold at the stadium to individuals attending baseball games or other events being held at the stadium and only for on-premises consumption.

**Background:** Chapter 65 of 2005 created the Class B-Stadium (baseball stadium) on-sale beer and light wine license in Charles County. Regency Furniture Stadium, owned by Charles County, hosts home games of the Blue Crabs (an Atlantic League of Professional Baseball team) and is also the venue for other events, including concerts.

Other Maryland jurisdictions currently authorized to issue beer and light wine stadium licenses include Frederick, Prince George's, Washington, and Wicomico counties. Chapter 548 of 2002 altered the Harford County stadium on-sale beer and light wine license for the stadium owned by the City of Aberdeen to allow for the sale of beer, wine, and liquor. Chapter 548 specifies that during a baseball game, liquor may only be served on the club level or dining area in which patrons are seated. The Baltimore City arena license allows for the sale of beer, wine, and liquor at a stadium.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 17, 2011  
ncs/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 25, 2011

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