

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 245  
Economic Matters

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

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Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer, Wine and Liquor Tasting License  
Ho. Co. 5-11

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This bill creates a beer, wine, and liquor tasting license (BWLTL) in Howard County. A BWLTL license may only be issued to a holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license (BWL). The annual license fee is \$100. The bill also increases, from 14% to 15.5%, the maximum alcohol content of wine that may be served under a beer and wine tasting (BWT) license.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2011.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Howard County license fee revenues increase by approximately \$5,900 annually. County expenditures are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** A BWLTL license authorizes the on-premises consumption of the following alcoholic beverages for tasting or sampling purposes only:

- wine in a quantity not exceeding one ounce from each given brand and four ounces from all brands to any one person in a day;

- beer in a quantity not exceeding three ounces from each given brand and eight ounces from all brands to any one person in a day; or
- liquor in a quantity not exceeding one-fourth ounce from each given brand and one ounce from all brands to any one person in a day.

**Current Law:** A BWT license authorizes a holder to allow the on-premises consumption of wine and beer in specified quantities. A Class BWT license may only be issued to a holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license or a Class A beer and wine (BW) license. The annual fee for a BWT licenses is \$100, which is in addition to the Class A annual license fee.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** In fiscal 2010, Howard County issued 59 Class A BWL licenses. If each licensee applies for, and receives a BWLT license, county license fee revenues increase by \$5,900 annually.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 2011  
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