

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 279
Economic Matters

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

Carroll County - Alcoholic Beverages - Liquor Tasting

This bill authorizes the Carroll County Board of License Commissioners to issue a liquor tasting license to a holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor licensee. A liquor tasting license allows the licensee to provide liquor to customers up to a one-half ounce from a single sample and up to five samples in a day at no charge. The annual license fee is \$100 and is valid for not more than 52 days a year.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Carroll County alcoholic beverages license fee revenues increase by approximately \$2,000 annually beginning in FY 2012. This estimate assumes that 50% of eligible licensees purchase a liquor tasting license. Expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. Holders of Class A beer, wine, and liquor licenses in Carroll County may realize increased sales resulting from the use of the tasting license.

Analysis

Current Law: In Carroll County, the holder of a beer, wine, and liquor or a beer and wine license may be issued a wine tasting license and a beer tasting license. The annual fee for each license is \$100.

Local Revenues: In fiscal 2010, Carroll County issued 40 Class A beer, wine, and liquor licenses and one Class A beer and wine license. The county has issued 13 beer tasting permits and 25 wine tasting permits to these licensees.

Assuming half of eligible licensees obtain a liquor tasting license, Carroll County revenues will increase by \$2,000 annually (20 licensees x \$100). Actual revenues may vary depending on the number of licensees that purchase a liquor tasting license.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 467 (Carroll County Senators) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2011
ncs/hlb

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