

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1119  
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Entertainment Permit  
PG 311-11**

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This bill provides that, in Prince George's County, an alcoholic beverages license holder does not need an entertainment permit if the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners determines that the licensee's principal business is to provide family entertainment or if the licensee holds a specified license exempt from the requirement.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2011.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Specifying that certain license holders are exempt from the entertainment permit will not have a significant effect on Prince George's County revenues.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The bill provides that an alcoholic beverages license holder does not need an entertainment permit if the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners determines that the licensee's principal business is to provide family entertainment or if the license is issued under related provisions applicable to:

- a restaurant for an agricultural association, agricultural fair association or any other association duly authorized to conduct racing under the provisions of the Maryland Horse Racing Act;
- a Class B/ECF license (beer, wine, and liquor), known as an “educational conference facility” license, to the University of Maryland, University College Center of Adult Education;
- a Class B-CI license (country inns);
- Class B-ECR license (Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission’s Equestrian Center);
- a Class B-ECF/DS beer, wine, and liquor on-sale license (Education Conference Facility/Dining Service license);
- a Class B beer, wine, and liquor stadium license;
- a Class B (TP) beer, wine, and liquor theme park license; or
- a Class B-CC (convention center) beer, wine, and liquor license.

The bill requires an entertainment permit holder to meet all applicable county law requirements and clarifies that a prohibition applicable to underage persons being allowed on the premises applies during the time the entertainment permit privileges are in use.

**Current Law:** Chapter 684 of 2010 authorized the Prince George’s County Board of License Commissioners to issue a special entertainment permit to the holder of any Class B (on-sale) license. The board must determine the number of days in a week that the permit holder may exercise the privileges of the permit. The annual permit fee is \$1,500, which is in addition to the annual fee for the Class B license. The permit authorizes a holder, after 9 p.m. and until 2 a.m., to impose a cover charge, offer facilities for patron dancing, and provide entertainment.

The Act specified (1) hearing requirements for the issuance, renewal, and revocation of an entertainment permit; (2) requirements for security plans for affected establishments; and (3) procedural requirements and penalties for violations.

The Act took effect July 1, 2010, and requires the board to report on the activities of permit holders and the impact of entertainment permits on the county by November 1, 2013. The report must be submitted to the Prince George’s County House and Senate Delegations and must include (1) the amount of revenue raised by the permit fees; (2) the number of permits issued, suspended, or revoked; (3) the number of violations committed by permit holders; and (4) the number of complaints lodged against permit holders during fiscal 2011-2013.

**Background:** Prior to the enactment of Chapter 684, some alcoholic beverages licenses in Prince George’s County already permitted some entertainment – such as for charitable organizations, country inns, and convention centers. Approximately 120 establishments that currently offer entertainment in the county are eligible to apply for the entertainment license. Assuming that all 120 qualified establishments seek and obtain the entertainment permit authorized under Chapter 684 additional county revenues would total approximately \$180,000 annually.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Prince George’s County, Comptroller’s Office, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2011  
ncs/hlb

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