

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 690  
Economic Matters

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

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**Damascus - Class H Beer and Light Wine Licenses - Repeal of Prohibition**  
**MC 6-12**

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This bill authorizes the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners to issue Class H (on-sale) beer and light wine, hotel, and restaurant alcoholic beverages licenses to hotels and restaurants in Damascus (12th election district). Alcoholic beverages may only be served to seated patrons. A license may not be issued to any restaurant in which recreational devices are used (*e.g.*, pool tables, billiard tables, video games, etc.). The passage of the bill is contingent on the approval of the voters of Damascus at the November 2012 general election.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Montgomery County revenues increase by \$400 annually, excluding application fees, for each Class H license issued in Damascus. The total revenue increase is expected to be minimal. The board of license commissioners can issue licenses and monitor licensees with existing resources. Similarly, the cost of adding the referendum issue to the ballot is minimal and absorbable within the local elections board's existing budget.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** In general, the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners may not issue a license for the sale of alcoholic beverages in any place of business located in Damascus (12th election district). However, in 2007, legislation was enacted (Chapter 417) that allows for a special seven-day Class C on-sale beer, wine, and liquor license to be issued to bona fide volunteer fire departments in Damascus.

The current annual license fee for a Class H (on-sale) beer and light wine, hotel, and restaurant alcoholic beverages license in Montgomery County is \$400.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** HB 664 of 1996 (Chapter 474) was passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor; however, the measure was not approved by the voters at the general election.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2012  
mc/hlb

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