

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 391 (Cecil County Senators)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Cecil County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class BLX Licenses

This bill lowers the minimum capital investment for dining room facilities and kitchen equipment required for a restaurant to qualify for a Class BLX beer, wine, and liquor on-sale license in Cecil County from \$600,000 to \$450,000.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Cecil County revenues will increase by \$2,500 for each new Class BLX beer, wine, and liquor on-sale license issued, beginning in FY 2013. Enforcement activities can be handled with existing county resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In Cecil County, a restaurant must have a minimum capital investment of \$600,000 for dining room facilities and kitchen equipment, not including the cost of land, buildings, or a lease, to qualify for a Class BLX beer, wine, and liquor on-sale license. The restaurant must also have a minimum seating capacity of 100 persons.

The holder of the Class BLX license:

- is authorized to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the licensed premises only;
- may not sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption; and
- may only serve alcoholic beverages on Monday through Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the following day, and on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the following day.

The annual fee for a Class BLX license in Cecil County is \$2,500.

Background: There are currently three Class BLX beer, wine, and liquor on-sale licenses issued in Cecil County.

Local Revenues: Cecil County revenues will increase by \$2,500 for each new Class BLX beer, wine, and liquor on-sale license issued. Cecil County advises the bill may also result in an increase in personal property tax revenues to the extent establishments make capital investments to qualify for a Class BLX license under the new lower threshold.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 2012
ncs/hlb

Analysis by: Trevor S. Owen

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510