

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 354

(Senator Jones-Rodwell, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Licenses

This bill establishes a Class BWLT beer, wine, and liquor tasting (on-premises) license in specified legislative districts in Baltimore City to allow holders of such a license to hold tastings daily throughout the year. The bill sets the annual license fee at \$750, which is in addition to the required Class A annual license fee, and specifies the legislative districts as: (1) Ward 27, precincts 42 and 44 of the 41st Legislative District; (2) Ward 27, precinct 41 of the 43rd Legislative District; and (3) Ward 11, precinct 5 of the 44th Legislative District. The bill also authorizes the transfer of one existing Class B-D-7 license from a certain location to another location in Baltimore City.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City alcoholic beverages license fee revenues increase by \$1,350 annually beginning in FY 2013. Expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. For a licensee that experiences increased sales attributable to increased tastings offered by the licensee, a net positive impact may likely occur.

Analysis

Current Law: In Baltimore City, in the same legislative districts covered under the bill, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners may issue a Class BWLT beer, wine, and liquor (on-premises) tasting license to a holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license.

The fees for a Class BWLT license are as follows:

- \$20 for a daily tasting license, which may be issued not more than 12 times in any annual license year;
- \$200 annually for a 26-day tasting license, which may be used consecutively or nonconsecutively; and
- \$300 annually for a 52-day tasting license, which may be used consecutively or nonconsecutively.

The fees for a Class BWLT license are in addition to the Class A annual license fee. A Class BWLT license authorizes the holder to allow the on-premises consumption of beer, light wine, and liquor for tasting or sampling.

A person may consume beer, light wine, or liquor covered by a Class BWLT license in a quantity not exceeding (1) one ounce of light wine from a given brand in a single day; (2) three ounces of beer from a given brand in a single day; and (3) one-half ounce of liquor from a given brand in a single day.

At the end of each day for which a Class BWLT license is valid, the holder of the license must dispose of any unconsumed alcoholic beverage remaining in a container that was opened for tasting or sampling. Each Class A license holder that seeks issuance of a Class BWLT license for which the holder is eligible must apply for the license on forms provided by the board.

The holder of a Class BWLT license may exercise the tasting privileges during the hours and days provided for under the holder's respective Class A license.

Local Fiscal Effect: Assuming that three holders of the existing 52-day tasting license (\$300 annual fee) obtain the new daily tasting license (\$750), Baltimore City revenues will increase by \$1,350 annually. The transfer of one Class B-D-7 license from one location to another has no impact on Baltimore City's operations or finances.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2012
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