

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 1044 (Senators Colburn and Mathias)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Wicomico County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class D Licenses

This bill establishes a Class D beer, wine, and liquor entertainment and amusement license in Wicomico County for specified entertainment amusement centers.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Wicomico County revenues from annual license fees may increase by \$1,800 annually, beginning in FY 2013. Enforcement activities can be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners may issue a Class D beer, wine, and liquor entertainment and amusement license to an entertainment amusement center that:

- operates as a business establishment having a minimum seating capacity of 140 persons, not including the bar area or dancing floor area, that accommodates the public;
- meets the minimum requirements of the fire code applicable for the jurisdiction in which the premises is located;

- is fully equipped with a proper and adequate dining room with facilities for preparing and serving regular meals;
- has more than 50% of its floor space (excluding the kitchen and any floor space occupied by a jukebox or similar passive entertainment device) dedicated to or occupied by equipment for foosball, billiards, darts, virtual reality simulation games, and other games requiring active physical participation of one or more players approved by the board (not including keno, card games, pinball machines, and bar games); and
- has an initial capital investment of at least \$300,000, excluding the cost of the land and building.

The proposed license provides a seven-day authorization for consumption only on the premises of the entertainment amusement center. The annual license fee is set at \$4,000.

Except for beer and light wine, the license holder must purchase all of the alcoholic beverages that are sold for consumption on the premises from a county dispensary and may not be charged more than 15% above the wholesale cost of the dispensary.

Individuals who are under the age of 21 may not enter or remain on the licensed premises after 9 p.m., and individuals under the age of 17 may not enter the licensed premises without a parent or guardian.

Local Fiscal Effect: The Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners has issued 152 alcoholic beverages licenses, of which 3 are Class D beer, wine, and liquor tavern licenses which have an annual license fee of \$2,200. Wicomico County indicates that one current Class D beer, wine, and liquor tavern license will likely convert to the new Class D beer, wine, and liquor entertainment and amusement license, at an annual fee of \$4,000. This would result in an annual revenue increase of \$1,800 beginning in fiscal 2013. Enforcement activities can be handled with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1347 (Wicomico County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Wicomico County, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 16, 2012
mlm/hlb Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 9, 2012

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