

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 205
Economic Matters

(Harford County Delegation, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Wine Festival License

This bill alters provisions relating to wine festivals in Harford County by eliminating requirements that the festivals must be held during certain months, for one weekend per year, and not conflict with specified other wine festivals.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in Harford County license fee revenues. Expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The Harford County Liquor Control Board is authorized to issue a special wine festival (WF) license. An applicant for such a license must be a holder of an existing State retail alcoholic beverages license, State Class 3 winery license, or State Class 4 winery license. The WF license entitles the holder to display and sell at retail wine for consumption on or off the licensed premises on the days and for the hours designated for the wine festival in the county. The license fee is \$20 and the wine must be produced and processed in Maryland.

The liquor control board may select one weekend annually during the months of June, July, August, or September for the wine festival that does not conflict with the Anne Arundel County Beer and Wine Festival, the Cumberland and Shenandoah Valley Wine Festival, or the Maryland Wine Festival. The liquor control board must choose a location in the county for this festival which does not hold an alcoholic beverages license.

Local Fiscal Effect: There has been no activity for this type of license in Harford County for over 10 years. If the bill leads to the issuance of a new license, local revenues increase by \$20 for each license issued.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 68 (Senator Glassman, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2012
ncs/hlb

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