

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 306
Economic Matters

(Delegates Haddaway-Riccio and Eckardt)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Talbot County - Alcoholic Beverages - Wineries

This bill repeals specified provisions of law that limit the wine sampling privileges of Class 3 manufacturer's winery and Class 4 limited winery license holders in Talbot County. The bill also provides that current statewide wine sampling privileges of licensed wineries will now apply in Talbot County.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Class 3 and Class 4 winery licenses are issued and monitored by the State, therefore Talbot County finances and operations will not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal increase in revenue from the sale of wine samples at locations with either Class 3 or Class 4 winery licenses in Talbot County.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Class 3 manufacturer's winery and Class 4 limited winery licenses are issued by the State. There are statewide provisions of law for both Class 3 and Class 4 licenses which pertain to wine sampling at these locations. There are currently no Class 3 manufacturer's winery licenses, and three active Class 4 limited winery licenses in Talbot County.

Statewide provisions of law authorize a Class 3 manufacturer's winery license holder to sell wine made from products grown in the State at a retail price at the plant to persons of legal drinking age participating in a guided tour of the facility provided the purchase is limited to not more than one quart of wine per person per year; and serve at no charge not more than six ounces of wines made at the licensed facility to a person, of legal drinking age, who is participating in a guided tour of the facility.

Statewide provisions of law allow a Class 4 limited winery license holder to provide samples of wine and pomace brandy, not exceeding two fluid ounces per brand, to a consumer at no charge, or for a fee, during specified hours for consumption on or off the licensed premises.

Additional provisions of law serve to establish further regulations affecting Class 3 and Class 4 license holders within a local jurisdiction. For example, in Talbot County, the holder of a Class 3 manufacturer's winery or a Class 4 limited winery license may serve a sample of wine manufactured on the licensed premises no larger than two ounces to persons visiting the licensed premises. The wine sample must be served and consumed on the premises where the wine is manufactured, and the license holder may not charge for the sampling.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 448 (Senator Colburn) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Talbot County, Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2012
mlm/hlb

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