

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 737 (Calvert County Senators)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Calvert County - Alcoholic Beverages - Special Event Licenses

This bill authorizes the Calvert County Board of License Commissioners to issue a Special Event (SE) license, which allows the license holder to sell at retail beer, wine, and liquor for consumption on the licensed premises during the hours designated for the event. The SE license fee is \$100 if the event is for a commercial purpose and is \$10 if the event is for a charitable or not-for-profit purpose.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Minimal increase in Calvert County license fee revenues. Under one set of assumptions, Calvert County license fee revenues increase by approximately \$1,400 annually. Any enforcement activities can be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but potential meaningful for any qualifying licensee obtaining the SE license and having alcoholic beverage sales in excess of the SE license fee.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A special event is an event attended by the public for a special or particular purpose, including a concert, a charitable or nonprofit fundraising event, a holiday event, a party, a seasonal local business opening or closing, a ball, a gala, a

festival, and any other distinctive, traditional, or unique event for which a special one-day temporary license is not applicable.

An SE license allows the sale of beer, wine, and liquor for consumption anywhere on the licensed premises, including patron areas, parking lots, and other areas of the property that are to be used for the special event during the hours designated for the event.

The board may issue a SE license to a person regardless of whether the person already holds a retail alcoholic beverages license. The SE license is valid only for the event specified on the SE license application. Holding an SE license does not preclude the holder from holding another, different, alcoholic beverages license. The board must determine the number of licenses an applicant may be issued in a year, and the board may adopt implementing regulations.

After a presentation by the applicant, the Calvert County Board of License Commissioners may approve the following:

- the location of the event;
- the area on the event site where the alcoholic beverages are to be sold and consumed;
- the times when the special event may be held and when the SE license is valid;
- the number, location, and types of additional bars, portable carts, other portable or permanent service structures for the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages at the special event, if requested in the application;
- any security or other safety measures for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare; and
- any other reasonable requirements for the issuance of a SE license.

Current Law: A special Class C beer, wine, and liquor license entitles the holder to sell alcoholic beverages during a bona fide entertainment conducted by a club, society, or association at the place described for a period not exceeding seven consecutive days. In Calvert County the fee for this license is \$25 per day, except that for any bona fide religious, fraternal, civic, war veterans', hospital, or charitable organization, the fee for the license is \$15.

Local Fiscal Effect: The number of SE license applications that will be submitted in Calvert County each year is unknown; the number issued will depend upon how many applications the Calvert County Board of License Commissioners receives and approves. *For purposes of illustration*, if 13 SE licenses for commercial purposes and 12 SE licenses for charitable or not-for-profit purposes are issued annually, Calvert County license fee revenues will increase by \$1,420 annually.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2013
ncs/hlb

Analysis by: Heather N. Ruby

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