

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 764

(Senators Colburn and Hershey)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Caroline County - Volunteer Fire Companies - Storage of Alcoholic Beverages

This bill authorizes Caroline County volunteer fire companies to store alcoholic beverages on the licensed premises in between licensed events if the alcoholic beverages are in a specially identified locked and secured location and are not sold or consumed except during licensed event hours for licensed event purposes. A license holder must keep complete and accurate records of all alcoholic beverages purchased and sold on the licensed premises, including a completed pre- and post-inventory of all alcoholic beverages for each individual event. The records must be maintained on the licensed premises for two years and available for inspection by authorized personnel of the Comptroller's Office and the Caroline County Board of License Commissioners in accordance with current law. A license holder who violates these provisions is subject to a \$100 fine for the first offense and, for the second offense, a fine of up to \$500 and denial of future requests for a license for an individual event or a special multiple event license.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill's penalty provisions do not materially affect Caroline County finances. The bill's requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Other than manufacturer's and wholesaler's licenses, the Caroline County Board of License Commissioners may grant special licenses of any class to a club, society, or association for a bona fide entertainment event held or conducted by the organization. An applicant may obtain up to 12 special licenses per calendar year at a cost of \$50 per license. Instead of purchasing individual event licenses, an applicant may purchase a special multiple event license, which is for one premises only. The fees range from \$250 for no more than 10 events per year to \$1,000 for no more than 40 events per year.

Whenever a special one-day Class C license is issued, the holders of wholesale licenses may enter into an agreement with the holder of a special one-day license to deliver beer or wine two days prior to the effective date, and to accept returns two days after the expiration date of the special license.

The Comptroller, his duly authorized deputies, inspectors, and clerks; the board of license commissioners of the county or city in which the place of business is located (and its duly authorized agents and employees); and any peace officer of the county or city is authorized to inspect and search, without warrant, at all hours, any building, vehicle, and premises in which any alcoholic beverages are authorized to be kept, transported, manufactured, or sold under a license or permit.

Background: There are eight volunteer fire companies that provide services in Caroline County, but only six of the volunteer fire companies are actually located in the county, so the bill only applies to those six volunteer fire companies. Three of the six volunteer fire companies currently have special multiple event licenses, and Caroline County anticipates that the other three volunteer fire companies will be issued special multiple event licenses within the next five years.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 21, 2014
ncs/lgc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 9, 2014

Analysis by: Heather N. Ruby

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