

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 966  
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)

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Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Sunday Off-Sale Permit  
PG 304-14

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This bill establishes a special Sunday off-sale permit in Prince George's County and authorizes the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners to issue the permit to the holder of any Class A license or a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license with an off-sale privilege. The new permit authorizes the licensed sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption off the premises only from 8 a.m. on Sunday to midnight the following day. The annual permit fee is \$450, which is in addition to the annual fee for the licensee's existing license. The board is authorized to adopt implementing regulations.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Prince George's County revenues increase by \$104,400 annually beginning in FY 2015. Enforcement activities can be handled with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal overall, but potential meaningful for licensees that obtain the Sunday off-sale permit in Prince George's County.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** In Prince George's County, a holder of a Class A retail "off-sale" alcoholic beverages license or a Class B or Class D alcoholic beverages license with off-sale privileges, or any agent, servant, or employee of the holder, may not sell any

alcoholic beverages for consumption off the licensed premises between the hours of 12 a.m. and 6 a.m.

A holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license or any agent, servant, or employee of a holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license may not make any sale on Sunday after 12 a.m. except when December 24 and 31 fall on a Sunday.

A Class B beer, wine, and liquor licensee may not sell any alcoholic beverages for consumption off the licensed premises between the hours of 12 a.m. and 6 a.m. or on Sunday after 12 a.m. from any separate store established on the licensed premises as an “off-sale store” or to keep an “off-sale store” open for business on Sunday after 12 a.m., except that beer and light wine only may be sold from an “off-sale” store which is attached to and a part of the licensed premises on Sunday after 8 a.m. until 12 a.m. the following day. The board of license commissioners determines what constitutes an “off-sale store.”

According to the Comptroller, there were a total of 144 Class A licensees and 305 Class B beer, wine, and liquor licensees with off-sale privileges in the county in fiscal 2013.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Based on information received from Prince George’s County for a similar bill in 2013, it is assumed that 131 Class A licensees and 101 Class B licensees will seek a Sunday sales permit in fiscal 2015. Some of these businesses may already be open for business on Sundays. Total new license fee revenue from Sunday permit fees totals \$104,400, annually. **Exhibit 1** shows the expected revenue increases from license fees in fiscal 2015.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Projected Annual License Fee Revenues**  
**Sunday Off-sale Permits**

<u>License Class</u>	<u>Licensees Participating</u>	<u>Sunday Off-sale License Fee</u>	<u>County Revenues</u>
A	131	\$450	\$58,950
B (beer, wine, and liquor) – with off-sale privilege	101	\$450	\$45,450
<b>Total</b>	<b>232</b>		<b>\$104,400</b>

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 1078 of 2013, a similar bill, received a hearing in the House Economic Matters Committee, but was subsequently withdrawn.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2014

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