

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 1117 (Senator Jones-Rodwell)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Class BWLT Tasting Licenses

This bill authorizes the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) to issue a Class BWLT beer, wine, and liquor (on-premises) tasting license to a holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license in Ward 25, Precinct 4 of the 44th Legislative District of Baltimore City.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Minimal. Baltimore City alcoholic beverages license fee revenues are expected to increase by at least \$750 annually from the issuance of at least one new Class BWLT beer, wine, and liquor (on-premises) tasting license. This estimate assumes at least one Class BWLT license is issued for daily use throughout the year.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but potential meaningful for any new licensees.

Analysis

Current Law: BLLC may issue a Class BWLT beer, wine, and liquor (on-premises) tasting license to a holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license in the following areas of Baltimore City:

- Ward 27, precincts 42 and 44 of the 41st Legislative District;
- Ward 27, precincts 41 and 48 of the 43rd Legislative District; and
- Ward 11, precinct 5 of the 44th Legislative District.

The fees for a Class BWLT license are as follows:

- \$20 for a daily tasting license, which may be issued not more than 12 times in any annual license year;
- \$200 annually for a 26-day tasting license, which may be used consecutively or nonconsecutively;
- \$300 annually for a 52-day tasting license, which may be used consecutively or nonconsecutively; and
- \$750 annually for a tasting license that may be used daily throughout the year.

The fees for a Class BWLT license are in addition to the Class A annual license fee.

A Class BWLT license authorizes the holder to allow the on-premises consumption of beer, light wine, and liquor for tasting or sampling. A person may consume beer, light wine, or liquor covered by a Class BWLT license in a quantity not exceeding (1) one ounce of light wine from a given brand in a single day; (2) three ounces of beer from a given brand in a single day; and (3) one-half ounce of liquor from a given brand in a single day.

Background/Local Revenues: BLLC reports that there are only two Class A beer, wine, and liquor licensees in Ward 25, Precinct 4 of the 44th Legislative District. One of those licensees has indicated to BLLC a desire to obtain a year-round Class BWLT license at an annual license fee of \$750. To the extent the other eligible licensee seeks a Class BWLT license, license fee revenues increase further.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - April 3, 2014
mc/lgc

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