

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 836
Economic Matters

(Washington County Delegation)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Washington County - Alcoholic Beverages - Wine Tasting License for Class B License Holders - Repeal

This bill repeals the authority of the Washington County Board of License Commissioners to issue a special wine tasting license (WTL) to a holder of a Class B (on-off sale) beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Washington County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A WTL may be issued only to a holder of a Class A (off-sale) beer, wine and liquor license or a Class B (on-off sale) beer, wine, and liquor license. The annual license fee is \$200, in addition to the annual license fee of a Class A (off-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license. A WTL permits the on-premises consumption of wine for tasting or sampling purposes only. The holder may not charge for the wine tasting or sampling. The license is effective for no more than 12 days in a licensing year. The licensee must notify the board in writing at least 10 days in advance of any scheduled tasting date. Under the

provisions of a WTL, servings are limited to no more than two ounces of any one wine to any one customer. The board may adopt regulations to implement the WTL.

Background: In fiscal 2014, there were 21 Class B BWL licenses issued in Washington County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 631 (Washington County Senators) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2015
md/lgc

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