

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 276 (Senator Norman)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Responsible Operator

This bill exempts an applicant for a Class H-CC (corporate club/conference center) beer, wine, and liquor license in Harford County from the requirement that the “responsible operator” designated on the license application own at least 25% of the total business.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: This bill is not anticipated to significantly impact local operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law/Background:

Limitations on Licenses and the Responsible Operator

In Harford County, if an application for an alcoholic beverages license is submitted for a corporation, whether incorporated or unincorporated, or for a limited liability company, the application must be submitted by three individuals with a financial interest in the corporation or company. Additionally, one of the applicants must be designated as the “responsible operator” of the licensed establishment. That individual must have been a

resident of the State for at least one year before filing the application and must remain a resident as long as the license is in effect. The responsible operator must also reside within a 100-mile radius of the Town of Bel Air. The responsible operator must (1) own at least 25 percent of the total business; (2) serve as manager or supervisor; and (3) be physically present on the premises a substantial amount of time on a daily basis. The responsible operator on an application for a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license is exempt from the requirement to own at least 25% of the total business.

Class H-CC License

The Harford County Liquor Control Board may issue a Class H-CC license to an establishment with (1) a banquet room, conference room, or meeting room that is suitable for public gatherings and equipped with food preparation facilities and (2) a corporate dining room that is reserved for members of a private club and their guests. The corporate dining room (1) must be equipped for the sale of food and (2) may be used by a private club of at least 25 members who pay an annual membership fee.

A Class H-CC license entitles the holder to keep for sale and sell beer, wine, and liquor during an event contracted with another person in any banquet room, conference room, meeting room, or corporate dining room, as well as other areas of the licensed establishment that are approved by the board. The license holder may hold multiple events in the licensed establishment simultaneously and may contract to provide beer, wine, and liquor at an event held off the licensed establishment under specified condition. The license holder may not hold more than four self-sponsored events per year in the banquet, conference, or meeting room.

The annual license fee for a Class H-CC is \$3,000, and no more than six Class H-CC licenses may be in effect at a time.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2015
min/lgc

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