

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2016 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

**Enrolled - Revised**

Senate Bill 624

(Calvert County Senators)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

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**Calvert County - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer or Wine Festival License**

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This bill modifies the scope of the existing special wine festival license to establish a special beer and wine festival (BWF) license in Calvert County. The fee for the license is \$15. The Calvert County Board of License Commissioners may issue a license to a holder of an existing retail alcoholic beverages license that authorizes the sale of beer or wine, a Class 3 winery license, a Class 4 limited winery license, a Class 5 brewery license, a Class 7 micro-brewery license, and a Class 8 farm brewery license, or to a nonprofit organization. The license entitles the holder to display and sell at retail beer or wine for consumption on or off the licensed premises on the days and hours designated for the beer or wine festival. The board may approve up to four weekends each year for each applicant and must approve the location for the festival.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Calvert County alcoholic beverages license fee revenues increase minimally beginning in FY 2017 from the issuance of additional special festival licenses at \$15 each. Monitoring of licenses can be handled with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal impact for small businesses now able to promote their products at the festivals.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** The Calvert County Board of License Commissioners may issue a special wine festival license to a holder of an existing retail alcoholic beverages license that authorizes the sale of wine, a Class 3 winery license, or a Class 4 winery license. The license fee is \$15. The license entitles the holder to display and sell at retail wine for consumption on or off the licensed premises on the days and hours designated for the wine festival in the county. The board is required to approve (1) one weekend annually for the wine festival and (2) a location in the county for the festival that does not hold an alcoholic beverages license.

**Background:** Beer and wine festivals are held annually throughout the State. They are generally seen as advertising and publicity events for businesses participating in the festival. Calvert County did not issue any special wine festival licenses in 2014.

In fiscal 2015, statewide, 7,212 retail alcoholic beverages licenses were issued that authorized the sale of beer or wine. In addition, the State issued 3 Class 3 winery licenses, 84 Class 4 limited winery licenses, 20 Class 5 brewery licenses, 36 Class 7 micro-brewery licenses, and 10 Class 8 farm brewery licenses.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** SB 231 of 2015 passed the Senate and received a hearing in the House Economic Matters Committee, but no further action was taken on the bill.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 2016  
min/hlb Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 16, 2016  
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