

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 717

(Dorchester County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Dorchester County - Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor License - Minimum Seating Requirement

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This bill alters the minimum seating requirement for the issuance of a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license in Dorchester County. Under the bill, the minimum number of seats, at tables, required before the Dorchester County Board of License Commissioners may issue a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license to a restaurant, motel, or hotel is lowered from 50 to 25.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Dorchester County revenues increase by \$1,000 annually for every license issued. Expenditures are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal overall but potential meaningful for small businesses who own or operate hotels, motels, or restaurants that are newly able to apply for and receive a license under the bill.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** In Dorchester County, the board may issue a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license to a restaurant, motel, or hotel that has a facility for serving full-course meals at least twice daily and with seating at tables for at least 50 individuals. The license authorizes

the holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption. The annual license fee is \$1,000.

**Background:** In fiscal 2015, there were 76 alcoholic beverages licenses issued for use in Dorchester County, including 27 Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses.

**Local Revenues:** Dorchester County revenues increase by \$1,000 annually for every new license issued under the bill. Dorchester County indicates that two businesses in the county intend to apply for the license. If both businesses apply for and receive a license under the bill, county revenues increase by \$2,000 annually.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 530 (Senator Eckardt) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 16, 2016  
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