

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 877

(Washington County Senators)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Washington County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class CT (Cinema/Theater) License

This bill establishes a Class CT (cinema/theater) (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license in Washington County and authorizes the Washington County Board of License Commissioners to issue the license for use in a cinema or theater that is in a building primarily designed to show movies to the public, has a capacity to hold at least 100 permanent seats, and has a minimum of six movie theater rooms. The annual license fee is \$1,000.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016, and terminates October 1, 2017.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Washington County revenues increase by \$75 for each application and by \$1,000 for each new license issued under the bill. Washington County can monitor new licenses with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor, by the drink, bottle, and can, in both a designated area in a lobby and in a VIP room that holds special events. The holder may sell alcoholic beverages on Thursdays in the lobby for 45 minutes before the movie starts and in a VIP room for 45 minutes before the movie starts, as well as during the movie. The license holder may serve alcoholic beverages without serving food.

An individual serving beer, wine, and liquor may not mix the contents of one bottle with the contents of another bottle, and must dispose of or destroy all empty bottles and cans. The license holder may only sell alcoholic beverages to an individual who has a ticket to a movie and proper identification.

The license holder is required to obtain a crowd control training certificate from a board-certified program and, while serving alcoholic beverages, have one certified crowd control manager on premises for every 250 individuals present. One individual who has completed a certified alcohol awareness program, as required by the State, must be on premises at all times when alcohol is being served.

Current Law: Alcohol awareness programs are approved and certified by the State Comptroller. The programs must (1) include instruction on how alcohol affects a person's body and behavior; (2) provide education on the dangers of drinking and driving; and (3) define effective methods for serving customers to minimize the chance of intoxication, ceasing service before a customer becomes intoxicated, and determining if a customer is not of legal drinking age.

With specified exceptions, a holder of any class of retail alcoholic beverages license or an employee designated by the holder must complete an approved alcohol awareness program. The program is valid for four years, at which time the individual must complete a retraining course. Individuals who complete the program are issued certificates of completion.

Background: In fiscal 2015, there were a total of 194 alcoholic beverages licenses issued for use in Washington County.

Local Fiscal Effect: Washington County revenues increase by \$75 for each application and \$1,000 for each new license issued under the bill. It is not known how many cinemas/theaters in Washington County will qualify or apply for the new license.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: Although designated as a cross file, HB 1320 (Delegate B. Wilson - Economic Matters) is different.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2016
mel/hlb Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 18, 2016

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