

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 400

(Chair, Charles County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Charles County - Alcoholic Beverages - Exemption From Off-Sale License Quota

This bill exempts holders of manufacturer's licenses from any off-sale alcoholic beverages license quotas in Charles County. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Charles County revenues increase based on the additional number of off-sale alcoholic beverages licenses issued as a result of the bill. Monitoring any additional licenses can be handled using existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Overall minimal, but potentially meaningful for any small business manufacturer obtaining an off-sale alcoholic beverages license as a result of the bill.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Generally, the Charles County Board of License Commissioners may not issue more than one of any license with an off-sale privilege for every 1,350 residents in an election district within the county, as determined by the latest federal census. However, in the 6th election district, the board may not issue more than one of any license with an off-sale privilege for every 2,700 residents.

In fiscal 2018, there were 175 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Charles County.

Local Fiscal Effect/Revenues: Beginning in fiscal 2020, Charles County license fee revenues increase to the extent manufacturers obtain off-sale alcoholic beverages licenses as a result of the bill. As of February 2019, Charles County anticipates two manufacturers will qualify for a license previously unavailable due to license quotas in the county.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Charles County; Comptroller's Office; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2019
sb/tso Third Reader - March 19, 2019

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