

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 820 (Delegate P. Young)
Economic Matters

Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Transfers

This bill generally alters provisions of law relating to the transfer of alcoholic beverages licenses in Baltimore County. The bill also repeals the limitation on the total number of Class B service bar licenses that may be issued annually in any one election district in Baltimore County. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore County revenues increase minimally to the extent new Class B service bar licenses are issued under the bill. Baltimore County can monitor licenses with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful to those businesses who are able to transfer their licenses to areas described by the bill and to businesses who are issued new Class B service bar licenses as provided by the bill.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill authorizes the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners, effective May 1, 2019, through April 30, 2021, to approve the transfer of up to eight Class B or Class D alcoholic beverages licenses in existence in election district 15 on May 1, 2019, from the district to other election districts within the county, provided the number of licenses in existence on the date of approval of the transfer is not greater than 25% more than the number of licenses that would otherwise exist in the election district based on the rule of the board that limits the total number of licenses available in

an election district by population. No more than two licenses can be transferred into any single election district each year.

If, during the period from May 1, 2019, through April 30, 2021, the board does not approve the transfer of Class B or Class D licenses from election district 15 to any other election district in the county, the board must issue two new Class B service bar beer and wine licenses in election district 9, as specified.

By April 30, 2020, the board must approve the transfer of four Class B or Class D licenses from election district 15.

By April 30, 2021, the board must approve the transfer of Class B or Class D licenses so that the total number of licenses transferred from election district 15 or issued since May 1, 2019, totals eight.

The bill also repeals obsolete provisions related to the transfer of licenses in Baltimore County.

Current Law: Generally, Class B licenses are held by restaurants and hotels, and Class D licenses are held by bars and taverns. The annual fee for a Class B service bar license is \$5,000.

Background: In fiscal 2018, there were 784 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Baltimore County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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