

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 293

(Frederick County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Volunteer Fire Company or Volunteer Ambulance Company License

This bill authorizes the Frederick County Board of License Commissioners to issue a Class C (volunteer fire company or volunteer ambulance company) beer, wine, and liquor license to a volunteer fire company or volunteer ambulance company. The license authorizes the licensee to sell, during a fundraising event, beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption. The licensee must notify the board at least 14 days before a fundraising event at which the licensee plans to exercise the privileges of the license. The annual license fee is \$500. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Frederick County revenues increase by approximately \$1,500 annually due to additional licensing fees. Frederick County can monitor the license with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The board may issue Class C beer, wine, and liquor licenses for use by nationally chartered fraternal, charitable, and veterans' organizations and other clubs. The license generally authorizes the licensee to sell, for on-premises consumption, beer, wine, and liquor on the licensed premises. The board also issues special Class C licenses for use by country and golf clubs, private business clubs, private country clubs, retirement centers, and specified performing arts centers.

The board may issue a per diem license to the Middletown, Wolfsville, Jefferson, or Myersville volunteer fire company. A specified volunteer fire company may use the net proceeds from the sale of alcoholic beverages only (1) to purchase fire and rescue equipment; (2) for operating expenses; and (3) for constructing and maintaining specified facilities.

Generally, for a premises that is licensed to sell alcoholic beverages with an off-sale privilege, or a premises that is licensed with on-sale privileges and sells alcoholic beverages directly to a customer from a bar or service bar, the license holder or specified employees must complete training in an approved alcohol awareness program in order to obtain and retain their alcoholic beverages license. The training program must be approved and certified by the Comptroller, and it must provide information on how alcohol affects a person's body and behavior, the dangers of drinking and driving, refusing service before a customer becomes intoxicated, and determining if a customer is old enough to legally consume alcohol. The training is valid for four years.

Background: In fiscal 2018, there were 329 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Frederick County. Frederick County advises that there are 22 volunteer fire companies and 3 volunteer ambulance companies in the county.

Local Fiscal Effect: For each license issued under the bill, Frederick County revenues increase by \$500 annually from licensing fees. The board anticipates issuing approximately three Class C (volunteer fire company or volunteer ambulance company) licenses under the bill. Accordingly, Frederick County revenues increase by approximately \$1,500 annually. Any additional inspection or enforcement activity can be absorbed within existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 204 (Senators Young and Hough) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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

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