

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 674 (Senator West)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Towson Row Development

This bill establishes the Class A-T (Towson) beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license and the Class B-T BWL license in Baltimore County. The bill authorizes the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners to issue the licenses to establishments meeting specified criteria. The licenses may only be issued to premises within the Towson Row development in Towson, Maryland. The annual license fees are \$900 for Class A-T BWL licenses and \$1,500 for Class B-T BWL licenses. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore County revenues increase minimally due to additional license fees. Baltimore County can monitor licenses with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: There may be no more than one active Class A-T BWL license in use at any given time within the Towson Row development. The license holder must deliver beer, wine, or liquor in sealed containers that may not be opened or consumed on-premises.

There may be no more than four active Class B-T BWL licenses in use at any given time within the Towson Row development. The board may issue Class B-T BWL licenses to restaurants so long as the area to prepare and consume food and beverages does not occupy

less than 80% of the square footage of the premises. The license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor for on- and off-premises consumption.

Neither license type is transferrable outside of the Towson Row development.

Current Law: Local boards of license commissioners are authorized to issue special alcoholic beverages licenses for specific types of venues. The Comptroller is authorized to issue statewide licenses. The board may issue licenses for conference facilities, theatres, and racetracks.

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

Local Fiscal Effect: Baltimore County revenues increase by \$900 annually for each Class A-T BWL license issued and \$1,500 annually for each B-T BWL license issued, up to a maximum of \$6,900 (assuming all of the licenses are issued as a result of the bill). Any increase in inspections and enforcement activity can likely be absorbed with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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