

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 936 (Delegate Cassilly)  
Economic Matters

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Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Multiple Licensing Plans

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This bill authorizes the Harford County Board of License Commissioners to issue a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license to an applicant that holds or has applied for a Class brewery or Class 9 limited distillery license. Any Class B BWL license issued as a result of the bill can only be transferred to a holder of a Class 5 brewery or Class 9 limited distillery license. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Harford County revenues increase based on the number of Class B BWL licenses issued as a result of the bill. Monitoring of any additional licenses issued can be handled using existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal overall, but potential meaningful for any small business already holding a Class 5 brewery or Class 9 limited distillery license that obtains a Class B BWL license as a result of the bill.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** In Harford County, a Class DBR license may be issued to a holder of a Class 5 brewery license. The license serves as the on-premises consumption permit and the license equivalent to a Class D license.

Chapter 449 of 2015 established a Class 9 limited distillery license in the State. Chapter 308 of 2016 authorized the Comptroller to issue a Class 9 limited distillery license

to a Class B BWL license holder or a Class D BWL license holder in any jurisdiction in the State if the license authorizes sales for both on- and off-premises consumption.

**Background:** In fiscal 2018, there were 203 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Harford County. Of those, 88 were Class B BWL licenses. As of February 2019, there were 2 Class 5 breweries and no Class 9 limited distilleries in the county.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2019  
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