

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 197  
Economic Matters

(Wicomico County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Wicomico County - Alcoholic Beverages - Bed and Breakfast License**

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This bill establishes a Class B-BB (bed and breakfast) on-sale beer and wine license in Wicomico County. The bill authorizes the Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners to issue the license to bed and breakfasts meeting specified criteria. The annual license fee is \$300. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Wicomico County revenues increase minimally due to additional license fees. Any additional enforcement activity can be handled with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal overall but potential meaningful impact for a small business obtaining a license under the bill.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The license authorizes the license holder to sell beer and wine to a guest if the name and address of the guest appears on the registry of the bed and breakfast and the guest is an occupant of a sleeping room in the bed and breakfast. A license holder may sell beer and wine for on-premises consumption, Monday through Sunday, from 7:00 a.m. to midnight.

The license also authorizes the holder to sell beer and wine for on-premises consumption to a guest of a catered event at the bed and breakfast if (1) the license holder is under

contract to cater the event, the license holder caters the event, and food is served at the event or (2) the license holder hosts an event for which tickets are sold in advance.

The license holder must (1) maintain records of all catered events where alcoholic beverages are served and (2) make the records available on request to the board or to the Comptroller. If the bed and breakfast ends operations as a bed and breakfast, the license is void and the license holder must return the license to the board.

**Current Law:**

*Class B Beer and Wine License:* In Wicomico County, there is a Class B beer and wine license. The board may issue the license to a hotel if for each month the average daily receipts from the sale of food exceed the average daily receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages. The annual license fee is \$400.

*Local Caterer's License:* The board may issue a local caterer's license to the holder of either a Class B restaurant or hotel (on-sale) beer and wine license or beer, wine, and liquor license. The license authorizes a holder to sell or provide alcoholic beverages at events off-premises at a catered event so long as food is provided. The annual fee for this license is \$550.

**Background:** In fiscal 2018, 149 alcoholic beverages licenses were issued for use in Wicomico County. Of those, 6 were Class B beer and wine licenses.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 19 (Senator Eckardt) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 13, 2019  
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