

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 447

(Frederick County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Basket of Cheer

This bill authorizes the Frederick County Board of License Commissioners to issue a basket of cheer permit, at no cost, to a Class C per diem beer and wine (BW) licensee or a Class C per diem beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) licensee. The permit authorizes the permit holder to provide, as a prize at a benefit performance, a “basket of cheer” of alcoholic beverages produced in Maryland for off-premises consumption. A basket may contain up to 288 ounces of beer and 2.25 liters of wine. For a Class C per diem BWL licensee, a basket may also contain up to 2.25 liters of liquor. A permit holder may raffle up to 10 baskets of cheer per benefit performance. The bill specifies that a permit holder may obtain alcoholic beverages for a basket of cheer only from a licensed alcoholic beverages retailer. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Frederick County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law/Background:

Class C Per Diem Licenses, Generally

Local licensing boards may generally issue per diem licenses that authorize the sale and serving of alcoholic beverages for limited, specified periods. Generally, a Class C per diem BW or BWL license authorizes a licensee to exercise the privileges of the class of license for use at a club-sponsored entertainment event, at the place described in the license, for a period of up to seven consecutive days. A Class C per diem licensee generally may purchase alcoholic beverages only from a licensed retailer. However, a specified Class C per diem beer or BW licensee may, subject to specified limitations, purchase beer and/or wine directly from a licensed wholesaler.

Issuance of Class C Per Diem Licenses in Frederick County

In Frederick County, an applicant may obtain a Class C per diem or multiday beer, BW, or BWL license. The board may not issue a single applicant Class C per diem or multiday beer or BW licenses for use on more than 50 days per calendar year. Similarly, the board may not issue a single applicant Class C per diem or multiday BWL licenses for use on more than 50 days per calendar year. The daily fee for a Class C per diem or multiday beer or BW license is \$10, and the daily fee for a Class C per diem or multiday BWL license is \$30.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 325 (Senators Young and Hough) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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