

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 389

(Chair, Charles County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Charles County - Alcoholic Beverages - Resort Complex License

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This bill establishes the resort complex alcoholic beverages license in Charles County. The bill authorizes the Charles County Board of License Commissioners to issue the license to resort complexes meeting specified criteria. The annual license fees are \$3,500 for two outlet locations and \$1,750 for each additional outlet location. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Charles County revenues increase by approximately \$3,500 from resort complex licenses issued as a result of the bill. Monitoring of any additional licenses issued can be handled using existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** A “resort complex” is a parcel or contiguous parcels of land of at least 20 acres under common ownership and with facilities that (1) include a venue for golf, waterfront beach activities, or a marina; (2) serve the public; and (3) have at least \$550,000 of capital investment exclusive of the cost of the land. The board may issue one resort complex license to the person owning or operating a resort complex. The license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor at multiple outlets in the resort complex that may be consumed in conjunction with the playing of music and dancing at designated locations in the resort complex and one designated outlet in the resort complex for off-premises

consumption. The resort complex license holder may serve alcoholic beverages Monday through Sunday during specified hours for inside and outside outlets in the resort complex. Resort complex licenses are exempt from any quota or restriction on off-sale licenses issued for the election district in which the resort complex is located.

**Current Law:**

*Off-Sale License Quota*

Generally, the board may not issue more than one of any license with an off-sale privilege for every 1,350 residents in an election district within the county, as determined by the latest federal census. However, in the 6th election district of Charles County, the board may not issue more than one of any license with an off-sale privilege for every 2,700 residents.

**Background:** In fiscal 2018, there were 175 alcoholic beverage licenses issued in Charles County.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The annual license fees for a resort complex license are \$3,500 for two outlet locations and \$1,750 for each additional outlet location. Charles County anticipates one qualified business will be interested in applying for a resort complex alcoholic beverages license. Beginning in fiscal 2020, the county anticipates revenues from annual license fees will increase \$3,500 per year, which is the annual license fee generated from two outlet locations in a resort complex under the bill.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

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