

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 291  
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)

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Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Licenses for Supermarkets  
PG 308-20

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This bill authorizes the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners to issue a Class A beer and light wine license to supermarkets that have a minimum investment of at least \$500,000 in the supermarket facilities, not including the cost of land or buildings. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Prince George's County revenues increase by \$10,000 in FY 2021 from licenses being issued to supermarkets under the bill. Prince George's County can handle any additional enforcement activity with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Generally, in Prince George's County and throughout the State, except by way of renewal, or as otherwise provided, alcoholic beverages licenses may not be granted, transferred, or issued to, or for use in conjunction with, or upon the premises of any chain store, supermarket, or discount house.

In Prince George's County, an establishment that held a license on July 1, 1973, may continue to hold that license and, at the discretion of the board, may change the class of the license.

In Prince George's County, a Class A beer and light wine license generally authorizes a license holder to sell alcoholic beverages at retail in a sealed package or container, which may not be opened and its contents may not be consumed on the premises where the beer or light wine is sold. The annual license fee is \$500.

**Background:** In fiscal 2019, there were 616 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Prince George's County, of which 1 was a Class A beer and wine license.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** For each additional Class A beer and wine license issued, Prince George's County revenues increase by \$500. Prince George's County estimates that 20 supermarkets may apply for a Class A beer and wine license under the bill in fiscal 2021. If all 20 supermarkets are issued licenses under the bill, revenues increase by \$10,000 in fiscal 2021.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2020  
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