

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 383 (Harford County Senators)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class B-3 License - Restaurant**

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This bill establishes a Class B-3 restaurant 7-day alcoholic beverages license in Harford County. The Harford County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue a Class B-3 license to a person who has been operating for one year before the application for the license: (1) a restaurant or hotel under a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license; or (2) a restaurant under a Class BNR (newly opened restaurant) BWL license. The annual fee for a Class B-3 restaurant 7-day license that is issued to the person who previously held for the premises a Class BNR (newly opened restaurant) BWL license is \$4,500. The bill makes other technical and conforming changes. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Harford County revenues increase to the extent Class B-3 restaurant 7-day licenses are issued to persons who previously held for the premises a Class BNR license. Harford County can monitor licenses with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal overall, but potential meaningful for a small business that is able to obtain a Class B-3 restaurant 7-day license under the bill.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The board may issue a Class B-3 license to a person who (1) has been operating a restaurant or hotel under a Class B BWL license for one year before the application for the Class B-3 license; (2) accounts for at least 25% of the business at the

restaurant or hotel from the sale of food; and (3) in the judgement of the board, has equipped and stocked the restaurant or hotel for the continued regular sale of food to customers and guests. The annual license fee for a 6-day license is \$2,620 for a hotel and \$2,050 for a restaurant. The annual license fee for a 7-day license is \$3,045 for a hotel and \$2,435 for a restaurant.

The board may issue a Class BNR (newly opened restaurant) BWL license to a newly opened restaurant that (1) has a minimum capital investment of \$250,000 for new dining room facilities and newly installed kitchen equipment, not including the cost of land, buildings, or a lease; (2) serves full-course meals at least twice daily; (3) has regular seating at tables, not including seats at bars or counters, for at least 60 individuals; and (4) meets other standards as specified in the regulations of the board. The annual license fee is \$3,000.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 865 (Harford County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2020  
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