

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

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

Senate Bill 773 (Senator Lam)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class MD Beer, Wine, and Liquor License**

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This bill establishes a Class MD beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license in Baltimore County. The Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue the license to any establishment that is located in an arts and entertainment district in the county and maintains average daily receipts from the sale of food that are at least 70% of the total daily receipts of the establishment. The license holder is authorized to sell beer, wine, and liquor manufactured in the State, at retail, at the place described in the license for on-premises consumption only. The license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor on Monday through Sunday, from noon to midnight. The Class MD BWL license is exempt from any license quota in the county. The board may set an annual fee for the license. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Baltimore County revenues increase to the extent Class MD beer, wine, and liquor licenses are issued under the bill and the board sets an annual fee for the license. The county can monitor any additional licenses using existing budgeted resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Overall minimal, but potential meaningful for any small business that obtains a Class MD license under the bill.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** In Maryland, the Comptroller's Office issues alcoholic beverages manufacturer's and wholesaler's licenses, while the boards of license commissioners in each county, Baltimore City, and the City of Annapolis are responsible for issuing retail alcoholic beverages licenses. Local licensing boards issue a large variety of licenses and permits.

**Background:** In fiscal 2019, there were 793 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Baltimore County.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

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