

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 865  
Economic Matters

(Harford County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Harford County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class BNR License – Newly Opened  
Restaurant

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This bill requires a Class BNR (newly opened restaurant) beer, wine, and liquor license holder in Harford County to have average daily receipts from the sale of food that exceed 40% of the average daily receipts from the sale of beer, wine, and liquor. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** In Harford County, there is a Class BNR (newly opened restaurant) beer, wine, and liquor license. The board may decide (1) the number of licenses to be issued; and (2) to whom the licenses must be issued. The board may issue the license for use by a newly opened restaurant that:

- 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;
- serves full-course meals at least twice daily;

- has regular seating at tables, not including seats at bars or counters, for at least 60 individuals; and
- meets other standards set out in the regulations of the board.

The license authorizes the license holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption from Monday through Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following day.

The annual license fee is \$3,000.

According to the Harford County Liquor Control Board's Rules and Regulations, a Class BNR license must have monthly gross receipts from the sale of food that are at least 50% of the gross receipts of the total sales of food and alcoholic beverages combined.

**Background:** In fiscal 2019, there were 201 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Harford County, including 164 beer, wine, and liquor licenses.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 383 (Harford County Senators) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 10, 2020  
mr/tso Third Reader - March 5, 2020

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Analysis by: Hillary J. Cleckler

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510