

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1396
Economic Matters

(Delegate Szeliga, *et al.*)

Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages - Sunday Sales

This bill repeals specified existing restrictions on Sunday sales and authorizes the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners to issue a Sunday permit to a holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license in Baltimore County. The permit fee may not exceed \$600. The Sunday permit authorizes the sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption on Sunday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore County revenues increase by up to \$115,200 in FY 2021 and annually thereafter from Sunday permit fees. Baltimore County can handle the impact study and any enforcement activity with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potentially meaningful. The bill's expansion of Sunday sales could result in significant increases in alcoholic beverages sales for affected licenses.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Uncodified language in the bill requires the board to conduct a study to ascertain whether granting Sunday permits will result in any economic impact on the existing holders of licenses that allow Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages in Baltimore County. The study must be conducted within 120 days of the bill's July 1, 2020 effective date.

If the board determines that granting Sunday permits will result in a demonstrable economic impact on existing license holders, the board must work with the license holders in developing an additional fee for the Sunday permit and mitigating the impact.

Current Law: In Baltimore County, the Class A BWL license authorizes the retail sale of sell beer, wine, and liquor at the place described in the license from Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to midnight. The license holder must deliver the beer, wine, or liquor in a sealed container that may not be opened or its contents consumed on the licensed premises. The annual license fee is \$900.

The license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the Sunday immediately before:

- Christmas Day;
- New Year’s Day;
- Rosh Hashanah; and
- Yom Kippur.

A license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor on the two Sundays immediately before Passover if (1) the license holder does not sell beer, wine, and liquor on the two Saturdays immediately before Passover; (2) the off-premises sales are conducted on those Sundays from 6 a.m. to midnight; and (3) the sales are limited to beer, wine, and liquor that are “kosher for Passover.” Similar Sunday sales requirements apply for the remaining beer, wine, and liquor licenses in the county.

Local Revenues: In fiscal 2019, there were 192 Class A BWL licenses issued in Baltimore County. Accordingly, anticipated licensing revenues under the bill increase up to \$115,200 in fiscal 2021 and annually thereafter from Sunday permit fees. This estimate assumes that the board authorizes a \$600 permit fee.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 772 of 2019 received a hearing in the House Economic Matters Committee but was withdrawn. HB 975 of 2018 received a hearing in the House Economic Matters Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2020
mr/tso

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