

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 994 (Delegate Qi)
Economic Matters

Alcoholic Beverages - Retail Delivery - Class A License Holders

This bill authorizes the holder of a Class A retail alcoholic beverages license in the State to deliver alcoholic beverages to a purchaser if (1) the Class A license holder sends a written notice to the local licensing board of the Class A license holder's intent to make deliveries and (2) the delivery is made from the licensed premises by the license holder or an employee of the license holder. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Local government expenditures increase minimally for enhanced enforcement activities under the bill. Revenues are not materially affected.

Small Business Effect: Meaningful.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: Maryland's 23 counties, Baltimore City, and the City of Annapolis all have boards of license commissioners that issue and enforce retail alcoholic beverages licenses in their jurisdictions.

Within each jurisdiction, the most common type of retail licenses are Class A, Class B, Class C, and Class D licenses. Each license authorizes the sale of alcoholic beverages in a different manner and may authorize sale of on-premises consumption, off-premises consumption, or both. For example, Class A licenses are generally issued to liquor stores

and Class B licenses are generally issued to restaurants and allow the sale of alcoholic beverages with food.

Under current law, except for certain wine shippers, retail delivery to a purchaser of alcoholic beverages is prohibited unless (1) a retail license holder obtains a letter of authorization from the local licensing board to make deliveries and (2) the delivery is made from the licensed premises by the retail license holder or an employee of the retail license holder. Under the bill, a Class A license holder would not require authorization/permission from the local licensing board to make deliveries and, instead, must only inform the local licensing board that it intends to make deliveries.

Small Business Effect: A small business Class A license holder that is able to deliver alcoholic beverages under the bill is likely to experience increased sales and revenues.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County; Comptroller's Office; Governor's Office; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2021
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