

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 281

(Washington County Delegation)

Economic Matters

**Washington County - Alcoholic Beverages - Special Event Permits for Wineries -
Sunset Repeal**

This bill repeals the June 30, 2023 termination date of Chapter 663 of 2021, which increased the number of times in a year that a special event permit may be used by specified wineries in Washington County. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Washington County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall but potentially meaningful for a small business license holder that is able to continue holding additional special events under the permit after June 30, 2023. Licensed retailers' sales of beer, sparkling wine, and liquor to license holders (for sale at the events) increase commensurately.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 663 of 2021 increased, until June 30, 2023, the number of times in a year that specified wineries in Washington County may use a special event permit from 32 to 60. In Washington County, the special event permit may be issued to a holder of a Class 3 winery license or a Class 4 limited winery license. The permit authorizes the holder to sell for on-premises consumption beer, wine produced by the holder, sparkling wine that is naturally or artificially carbonated, and liquor at an event for which the entire licensed

premises has been rented. The license holder must purchase beer, sparkling wine, or liquor intended for sale under the permit from a licensed retailer. The license holder must keep all receipts of purchases of alcoholic beverages for one year after the date of purchase. The license holder must notify the Washington County Board of License Commissioners at least one week before an event is to occur under the permit. The annual permit fee is \$1,000.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2022
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