House Bill 1106 (Washington County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Washington County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Wine

This bill replaces references to light wine in Washington County alcoholic beverages licenses with references to wine (without otherwise altering the substance of the statutory provisions relating to the licenses). The bill correspondingly repeals the definition of light wine applicable to alcoholic beverages licenses in Washington County. In addition, the bill authorizes the Washington County Board of License Commissioners to issue a refillable container permit for wine, as specified. The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Washington County revenues increase, beginning in FY 2023, by $50 for each refillable container permit for wine issued under the bill.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but some small business license holders may benefit from the ability to obtain a refillable container permit for wine.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law:

Light Wine

Under current law, in Washington County, “light wine” means wine that contains up to 15.5% of alcohol by volume. The bill repeals this definition and substitutes references in county licenses from “light wine” to “wine.” Accordingly, the definition of “wine” under
§ 1-101 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article becomes the applicable definition relating to references to wine in Washington County.

_Refillable Container Permit – Wine_

The bill authorizes the board to issue a refillable container permit for wine to a holder of a Class A wine license. An applicant for the permit must complete the form that the board provides. The hours of sale for the permit begin at the same time as those for the underlying license and end at midnight. The annual permit fee is $50. Otherwise, the statewide standards and requirements relating to refillable container permits under § 4-1105 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article apply.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:**
- First Reader - February 17, 2022
- Third Reader - March 18, 2022

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