

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 646

(Senators Carozza and Eckardt)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Wicomico County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class B-BF (Banquet Facility) License

This bill establishes the Class B-BF (banquet facility) beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license in Wicomico County. The Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue the license for use by any banquet facility that meets specified criteria. The license authorizes the holder to sell at retail beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption, subject to specified limitations. The license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor during the hours and days as set out for a Class B BWL license. The annual license fee is \$1,500. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Wicomico County revenues increase to the extent Class B-BF licenses are issued under the bill, beginning in FY 2023. Wicomico County can monitor any additional licenses using existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: Overall minimal, but potential meaningful for a small business that obtains a Class B-BF license.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The board is authorized to issue the Class B-BF license for use by any banquet facility that (1) accommodates the public for banquets, parties, meetings, and similar functions; (2) contains a dining room with adequate facilities for serving full-course meals for at least 100 individuals who are inside the facility or outside on the premises at one seating; and (3) has adequate public bathroom facilities.

The license authorizes the license holder to sell at retail beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption if (1) the beer and wine are sold by the drink or the bottle; (2) the liquor is sold only by the drink; (3) the beer, wine, and liquor are sold only during the function; (4) the license holder does not sell beer, wine, and liquor for off-premises consumption; (5) the license holder does not allow beer, wine, and liquor to be carried off the premises; and (6) the food is provided at the function where the beer, wine, and liquor are provided.

Current Law: In Wicomico County, there is a Class B BWL license. Generally, the board is authorized to issue the license to hotels that meet specified room and seating requirements and to restaurants that meet specified seating requirements and has for each month the average daily receipts from the sale of food exceeding the average daily receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages. The annual fee is \$1,980 for hotels and \$1,320 for restaurants.

A holder of a Class B BWL license may sell beer, wine, and liquor (1) on Monday through Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the following day and (2) on Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. to midnight, only to customers who are seated at tables on the premises. The license holder may not sell beer, wine, or liquor at a bar or counter on Sunday.

Local Fiscal Effect: The annual license fee for a Class B-BF is \$1,500, and there is an initial application fee of \$575 and an annual renewal fee of \$50. Therefore, Wicomico County revenues increase by \$2,075 in fiscal 2023 for each new license issued and \$1,550 annually thereafter for each license renewal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 1181 (Wicomico County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2022
fnu2/tso Third Reader - March 17, 2022
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 17, 2022

Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

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