

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 304

(Carroll County Senators)

Finance

Economic Matters

Carroll County – Alcoholic Beverages – Modification of Seating Requirements

This bill modifies the seating requirements for Class B, Class BR, and Class C beer, wine, and liquor licenses in Carroll County. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect Carroll County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law:

Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor License

Generally, a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license may be issued by the board for use by a hotel or a restaurant in Carroll County. A hotel must have at least 25 rooms, a lobby with a registration and mail desk, and a dining room that serves full-course meals at least twice daily and has regular seating not including seats at bars or counters for at least 50 individuals. It must also be valued at not less than \$50,000 for assessment and taxation. A restaurant must be open at least five days a week, serve two full-course meals a day from Monday to Friday, one full-course meal a day on Saturday and Sunday, have seating for at least 50 individuals, and be valued at not less than \$50,000 for assessment and taxation.

The bill specifies that up to 15 seats at bars and counters may be included in the calculation for the seating requirement.

Class BR Beer, Wine, and Liquor License

Generally, a Class BR beer, wine, and liquor license may be issued by the board to a restaurant in Carroll County that serves at least one full-course evening dinner meal at least five days a week and has regular seating not including seats at bars or counters for at least 50 individuals. It must also be valued at not less than \$50,000 for assessment and taxation.

The bill specifies that up to 15 seats at bars and counters may be included in the calculation for the seating requirement.

Class C Beer, Wine, and Liquor License

Generally, a Class C beer, wine, and liquor license may be used by the Board to a club in Carroll County that has a dining room with regular seating not including seats at bars or counters for at least 50 individuals. It must also be valued at not less than \$20,000 for assessment and taxation.

The bill specifies that up to 15 seats at bars and counters may be included in the calculation for the seating requirement.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 559 (Delegate Rose) - Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2023
js/tso Third Reader - March 14, 2023

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