

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 135

Finance

(Senator Carozza)

Economic Matters

Worcester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Ocean City Promoter's License

This bill establishes an Ocean City promoter's license in Worcester County and authorizes the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners to issue the license to a for-profit organization to sell beer, wine, and liquor at entertainment events held in Ocean City, as specified. The license fee is \$5,000 per entertainment event. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Worcester County revenues increase by \$25,000 in FY 2024 from Ocean City promoter's licenses issued under the bill. Worcester County can handle any additional enforcement activity with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but potential meaningful impact for any small business that obtains a promoter's license under the bill.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The board may issue an Ocean City promoter's license to a for-profit organization to sell beer, wine, and liquor at an entertainment event held on a premises that is (1) located within the corporate limits of the town of Ocean City; (2) owned by the town of Ocean City; and (3) approved in writing by the Ocean City Police Department. The board may adopt regulations to restrict the number of licenses issued each year and establish requirements to govern the sale and service of beer, wine, and liquor at specified entertainment events.

Current Law: In Maryland, alcoholic beverages licenses are granted by each jurisdiction's board of license commissioners to permit the sale and consumption of alcohol at specified places such as restaurants, taverns, hotels, clubs, or places of public entertainment. Other types of establishments or organizations cannot normally acquire a license but may be granted eligibility to apply.

The Worcester County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue a license to the Ocean City Convention Hall Commission that allows the commission to approve vendors to sell alcoholic beverages on the premises of the Ocean City Convention Hall. Additionally, the board may issue Class D licenses to Ocean City municipal golf courses for the on-premises sale and consumption of beer, wine, and liquor, as specified.

Local Fiscal Effect: Worcester County revenues increase by \$5,000 for each Ocean City promoter's license issued under the bill. Worcester County estimates that it will issue five Ocean City promoter's licenses in fiscal 2024; therefore, Worcester County revenues increase by approximately \$25,000 in fiscal 2024.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 113 (Delegate Hartman) - Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 16, 2023
rh/tso Third Reader - March 17, 2023
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 17, 2023

Analysis by: Ralph W. Kettell

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