

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 736  
Finance

(Senator Gallion)

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**Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Arts and Entertainment License**

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This bill establishes a Class AE (arts and entertainment) beer and wine license in Harford County. The Harford County Board of License Commissioners may issue the license for use by an organization engaged in an artistic activity, or entertainment that includes instruction, demonstration, and client participation. The board may *not* issue the license to an organization that displays and sells commercially prepared or mass-produced artistic products. The annual license fee is \$750. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Harford County revenues increase by \$750 per license, beginning in FY 2024, to the extent Class AE (arts and entertainment) licenses are issued under the bill. Harford County can handle any additional enforcement activity with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** A Class AE beer and wine license holder may sell or serve beer and wine on Monday through Sunday, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the following day. The license is nontransferable.

A business for which the license is issued is subject to specified alcohol awareness training requirements. The license holder must purchase beer and wine from a retail license holder

or an authorized and licensed wholesaler or manufacturer. The license holder must provide prepackaged snacks for purchase at all times when beer and wine are sold.

**Current Law:** In Harford County, the board is authorized to issue specified alcoholic beverages licenses, if certain conditions are met, for use by a range of different venues.

Alcoholic beverages license holders are generally subject to alcohol awareness training requirements under State law. The program includes instruction on how alcohol affects an individual's behavior and body; provides education on the dangers of drinking and driving, and defines effective methods to (1) determine whether a customer is under the legal drinking age; (2) serve customers to minimize the chance of intoxication; and (3) stop service before a customer becomes intoxicated.

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### **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** HB 1058 (Harford County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2023  
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