

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 997

(Frederick County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Finance

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**Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Consumption Permits**

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This bill alters how an individual on the licensed premises of either a beer and wine consumption (BWC) permit holder or a beer, wine, and liquor consumption (BWLC) permit holder may consume alcoholic beverages. The bill specifies that an individual covered by a BWC permit may choose to consume either (1) a single serving consisting of 12 total ounces of beer or 6 total ounces of wine or (2) three individual servings of beer or wine in any combination, each consisting of up to 2 ounces of beer or 1 ounce of wine. Similarly, an individual who is covered by a BWLC permit may elect to consume (1) a single serving consisting of 12 total ounces of beer, 6 total ounces of wine, or 1.5 total ounces of liquor (which may be mixed with other nonalcoholic beverages) or (2) three individual servings of beer, wine, or liquor in any combination, each consisting of up to 2 ounces of beer, 1 ounce of wine, or 0.5 ounces of liquor (which may be mixed with other nonalcoholic beverages). **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect Frederick County's operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Frederick County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue a BWC or a BWLC to holders of Class A licenses in Frederick County. The annual

fee for the BWC permit is \$200, and the annual fee for a BWLC permit is \$400. Renewal of a BWC or BWLC permit may be made when the permit holder's Class A license is renewed.

Under either a BWC or BWLC permit, the consumption of alcoholic beverages may only take place on the licensed premises of the permit holder. An individual covered by a BWC permit may consume a maximum of 12 total ounces of beer or 6 total ounces of wine, while an individual covered by a BWLC permit may consume a maximum of 12 total ounces of beer, 6 total ounces of wine, or 1.5 total ounces of liquor (which may be mixed with nonalcoholic beverages). BWC and BWLC permit holders are prohibited from allowing an open container to be taken from their licensed premises and from serving open alcoholic beverages from a drive-through window.

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### **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 16, 2023  
km/tso Third Reader - March 20, 2023

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