

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 738

(Senator Gallion)

Finance

Economic Matters

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**Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Performing Arts Theater License**

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This bill establishes a performing arts theater beer and wine license in Harford County. The Harford County Board of License Commissioners may issue the license for use on the premises of a performing arts theater operated by a nonprofit organization. The annual license fee is \$500. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Harford County revenues increase by \$500 annually beginning in FY 2024 from the issuance of one performing arts theater license 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:** “Performing arts theater” means an area, a building, or a structure designed and used for plays, acts, dramas, concerts, or histrionics by actors or actresses performing on a stage or the showing of movies or films. The license authorizes the holder to sell or serve beer and wine at retail for on-premises consumption.

The license holder may sell or serve beer and wine (1) one hour before and after a performance; (2) during a performance; (3) during an intermission; and (4) during a reception one hour before or one hour after a performance. The license holder must serve or offer for sale snacks at all times when beer and wine are sold. This license is

nontransferable. The license holder must purchase beer and wine from an authorized licensed wholesaler.

Issuance of a performing arts theater license does not prohibit the board from issuing a Class C *per diem* license that applies to the performing arts theatre.

**Current Law:** In Harford County, there are Class C *per diem* beer and wine and Class C *per diem* beer, wine, and liquor licenses that may be issued to nonprofit organizations, as specified.

**Local Revenues:** Harford County revenues increase by \$500 for each performing arts theater beer and wine license issued under the bill. Harford County estimates that it will issue one license beginning in fiscal 2024; therefore, Harford County revenues increase by \$500 from license fees beginning in fiscal 2024.

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## Additional Information

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

**Designated Cross File:** HB 1059 (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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Third Reader - March 17, 2023  
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