

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 621
Economic Matters

(Harford County Delegation)

Finance

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Stadium License Annual Fee

This bill decreases the license fee from \$10,000 to \$4,000 for a stadium beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license in Harford County. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Harford County revenues decrease by \$6,000 annually, beginning in FY 2025, due to the decrease in the annual license fee. Expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall but potential meaningful for a stadium that pays a decreased annual license fee for the stadium BWL license.

Analysis

Current Law: In Harford County, there is a stadium BWL license. The Harford County Board of License Commissioners may issue the license for a stadium to the owner, lessee, or concession manager of a professional baseball stadium. The license authorizes the license holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption. The license holder may sell, serve, or allow the consumption of beer, wine, and liquor on the stadium parking lots only with the prior written approval of the board. The license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor during specified times. An individual who serves beer, wine, and liquor on the licensed premises must hold a certificate from an alcohol awareness program that the board approves. An individual may generally only serve beer, wine, and liquor during a baseball game in plastic, Styrofoam, or paper containers, except on the club level or in a dining area where glass containers may be used, as specified. An individual may

dispense wine and liquor during a baseball game only from a stationary structure that is in the stadium and equipped with a motor vehicle driver's license scanner, except on the club level or in a dining area where patrons are seated. A license holder may not allow a roving vendor to dispense wine and liquor. A license holder is prohibited from allowing a person to carry beer, wine, and liquor onto or off of the licensed premises.

Local Fiscal Effect: Harford County advises that currently there is one stadium license in effect in the county. Thus, annual license fee revenues from stadium BWL licenses decrease by \$6,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2025. Harford County expenditures are not affected.

The board advises that the reduction in the stadium BWL license fee will negatively impact their revenue and, in turn, their ability to perform their operations. Such operations include their Alcohol Awareness Program and other educational initiatives. The board is funded by liquor licensing fees in Harford County.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 670 of 2023.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2024
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