

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 651
Economic Matters

(St. Mary's County Delegation)

Finance

St. Mary's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer, Wine, and Liquor Tasting
Permit

This bill establishes a beer, wine, and liquor tasting (BWLT) permit in St. Mary's County and authorizes the St. Mary's County Board of License Commissioners to issue the permit to the holder of a Class A license for on-premises consumption of beer, wine, and liquor for tasting purposes only. The permit fees are \$200 for a 26-day licensing period; \$250 for a 52-day licensing period; and \$300 for a 365-day licensing period. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: St. Mary's County revenues increase to the extent BWLT permits are issued under the bill. St. Mary's County can handle additional enforcement activity with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The board may issue a BWLT permit to a Class A license holder. The BWLT permit authorizes the holder to serve samples of beer, wine, and liquor to customers in a quantity not exceeding:

- 0.5 ounce of liquor from each offering and 1.5 ounces from all offerings of liquor in a day;

- one ounce of wine from each offering and four ounces from all offerings of wine in a day; and
- two ounces of beer from each offering and eight ounces from all offerings of beer in a day.

A holder of a 26-day or 52-day BWLT permit must notify the board at least seven days prior to a tasting.

Current Law: In St. Mary’s County, there is a beer and wine tasting (BWT) permit that the board may issue to Class A licensee. The permit authorizes the holder to allow on-premises consumption of beer and wine for tasting purposes only, as specified. The permit fees are \$150 for a 26-day licensing period; \$200 for a 52-day licensing period; and \$250 for a 365-day licensing period.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): St. Mary’s County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2024
km/tso Third Reader - March 18, 2024

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