

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 529
Finance

(Caroline County Senators)

Economic Matters

Caroline County - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer, Wine, and Liquor Tasting License

This bill expands, in Caroline County, the existing one-day beer and wine tasting license to be the one-day beer, wine, *and liquor* tasting (BWLTL) license. The Caroline County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue the license to an organization that qualifies for a Class C *per diem* beer, a Class C *per diem* beer and wine (BW), or a Class C *per diem* beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license. Among other samples authorized under current law, an individual may consume beer, wine, or liquor covered by the BWLTL license in a quantity of up to (1) nine ounces of beer from all offerings in a day (increased from eight ounces under current law), and (2) 0.5 ounce from each offering of liquor, and 2.5 ounces from all offerings in a day. The bill also makes conforming changes. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect Caroline County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law:

One-day Beer and Wine Tasting License

The Caroline County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue a one-day BWTL license to the holder of a current license or an organization that qualifies for a Class C beer or Class C beer and wine license. The license authorizes the license holder to

allow the consumption of beer or wine for tasting if (1) the consumer is not charged for the beer, wine, or liquor, and (2) the beer or wine is consumed on the licensed premises. The license may not be issued to a person more than 26 times in a calendar year. The board need not publish a license application before granting the license.

An individual may consume beer or wine covered by the license in a quantity of up to (1) three ounces from each offering of beer, and eight ounces from all offerings in a day, and (2) one ounce from each offering of wine, and four ounces from all offerings in a day. At the end of the day for which the license is valid, the license holder must dispose of beer or wine that remains in a container that was opened for tasting. The license fee is \$50.

Class C Per Diem Licenses – Generally

A Class C *per diem* B, Class C *per diem* BW, or Class C *per diem* BWL license entitles the license holder to exercise any of the privileges conferred by the respective class of license: (1) for the use of a person holding an entertainment event that is conducted by a club; (2) at the place described in the license; and (3) for a period not exceeding seven consecutive days.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 363 (Delegate Ghrist, *et al.*) - Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2024
js/tso Third Reader - March 12, 2024

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