

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 571

(Delegate Kipke)

Economic Matters

Finance

Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class C Licenses - Events

This bill authorizes a Class C beer, wine, and liquor license holder; a Class C (fraternal/sororal) organization license holder; and a Class C (veterans' organization) license holder in Anne Arundel County to sell beer, wine, and liquor at retail for on-premises consumption, including (1) during an event held on the licensed premises, and (2) to a member of the club or a guest of the member. If the license holder hosts an event for an outside group, the bill requires the outside group to purchase a Class C per diem beer, wine, and liquor license from the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Anne Arundel County revenues increase to the extent additional Class C per diem licenses are issued under the bill. Anne Arundel County expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Maryland's 23 counties, Baltimore City, and the City of Annapolis all have boards of license commissioners who issue and enforce retail alcoholic beverages licenses in their jurisdictions. Within each jurisdiction, the most common types of retail licenses are Class A, Class B, Class C, and Class D licenses. Each license authorizes the sale of

alcoholic beverages in a different manner. Class C licenses authorize the sale of alcohol to members and guests at a club, for on-site consumption only.

Class C license holders in Anne Arundel County may sell beer, wine, and liquor Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following day. They may not sell beer, wine, or liquor after 2 a.m. on Sundays without a Sunday license. The board may issue a Sunday license to a Class C license holder, authorizing the sale of beer, wine, and liquor on Sunday according to the terms of that license.

Class C (veterans' organization) licenses can be issued by the board only to a local unit of a nationwide nonprofit organization or club that (1) is composed only of veterans of the U. S. Armed Forces; (2) has a charter from a national veterans' organization; (3) has a membership of at least 100 individuals and dues of at least \$5 per year per individual; and (4) operates for its members and meets in a clubhouse principally used by its members. The annual license fee for a Class C (veterans' organization) license is \$400.

Class C (fraternal/sororal) organization licenses can be issued by the board for use by a local unit of a lodge, political organization, or chapter of a nonprofit and nationwide fraternal or service organization that (1) is composed only of inducted members; (2) was operating in the county before the license application was made; (3) has a membership of at least 100 individuals and dues of at least \$5 per year per individual; and (4) owns and operates a home or clubhouse that is principally for the use of its members and guests accompanied by members. The annual fee for a Class C (fraternal/sororal) organization license is \$400.

Anne Arundel County issues Class C per diem alcoholic beverages licenses that allow the license holder to exercise the privileges of a Class C alcoholic beverage license when holding an entertainment event conducted by a club. The event must be at the place described in the license and cannot exceed seven consecutive days. The fee for a Class C per diem beer and wine license is \$25, and the fee for a Class C per diem beer, wine, and liquor license is \$50.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 31, 2025
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