

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 574

(St. Mary's County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Finance

St. Mary's County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Multiple Licensing Plans

This bill prohibits the St. Mary's County Board of License Commissioners from issuing more than three Class B beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) restaurant licenses for separate premises to an individual or for the use of a person, as specified. Only one of the three licenses specified may authorize the sale of alcohol for off-premises consumption.
The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect St. Mary's County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A person may not have a direct or indirect interest in more than one Class B BWL license that authorizes the sale of alcohol for off-premises consumption.

An indirect interest is presumed to exist between a person or persons if any of the following conditions exist between them:

- a common parent company;
- a franchise agreement;
- a licensing agreement;

- a concession agreement;
- dual membership in a chain of businesses commonly owned and operated;
- a sharing of directors, stockholders, partners, or members; or a sharing of directors, stockholders, partners, or members of parents or subsidiaries;
- common direct or indirect sharing of profit from the sale of alcoholic beverages; or
- a sharing of common trade name, trademark, logo, or theme or mode of operation identifiable by the public.

Current Law: In St. Mary's County, a Class B BWL restaurant license authorizes the license holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor in a restaurant for retail at the place described in the license for on- and off- premises consumption. The license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the following day on Monday through Sunday. The annual license fee is \$650.

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 11, 2025
km/tso Third Reader - March 20, 2025
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Analysis by: Kayvon Samadani

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510