

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1494
Economic Matters

(Howard County Delegation)

Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class MT (Movie Theater) License

This bill establishes the Class MT (movie theater) beer, wine, and liquor license in Howard County. The bill authorizes the Howard County Board of License Commissioners to issue the license to the owner of a movie theater that holds a crowd control training certification. The license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor at retail at the place described in the license for on-premises consumption by a patron who has purchased a ticket to a current or future showing of a movie on the licensed premises. The board may set (1) the hours and days of sale for the license and (2) the annual license fee. The board must adopt regulations to carry out the bill's requirements. The bill establishes that the holder of an alcoholic beverages license for a movie theater in the county may renew the license only as a Class MT (movie theater) beer, wine, and liquor license. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Howard County license revenues increase to the extent Class MT (movie theater) beer, wine, and liquor licenses are issued under the bill. Howard County can monitor any additional enforcement activity with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but potential meaningful for a movie theater that is able to obtain a license under the bill and experiences additional sales.

Analysis

Current Law: Local boards of license commissioners are authorized to issue special

alcoholic beverages licenses for specific types of venues. The Howard County Board of License Commissioners may issue licenses for conference centers, continuing care retirement facilities, country clubs, golf courses, marketplaces, police officers' local affiliates, racetracks, shopping malls, and veterans' clubs.

Local Fiscal Effect: Howard County revenues increase to the extent the board issues Class MT (movie theater) beer, wine, and liquor licenses. The number of individuals that will obtain a license under the bill is unknown, and the board has not yet established an annual fee by regulation; therefore, any potential increase in Howard County license fee revenues under the bill cannot be reliably estimated. Howard County can handle the bill's requirements with existing resources.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: SB 1019 (Howard County Senators) - Rules.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2025
km/tso

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