

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 746 (Delegate Guyton)
Economic Matters

Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Transfers

The bill authorizes the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners, from June 1, 2025, to May 31, 2028, to approve the transfer of up to five Class B or Class D alcoholic beverages licenses in existence in an eligible transferor district on June 1, 2025, from the district to other election districts within the county. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The board can transfer the licenses with existing resources. Baltimore County revenues are not affected since no new licenses are created, only transferred between election districts.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: An “eligible transferor district” means an election district in which the total number of Class B and Class D licenses, excluding exception licenses, is 10% or greater than the total number of Class B and Class D licenses allowed in an election district based on the rule of the board that limits the total number of licenses available in an election district by population. The number of licenses in existence prior to the transfer must not be greater than 25% more than the number of licenses that would otherwise exist in that election district, as specified. No more than two licenses can be transferred into any single election district.

When the board receives an application to transfer a license, the board must notify the county Department of Economic and Workforce Development (DEWD).

When the license holder owns the property from which the license is to be transferred, the transfer application must include information on the status of the real property associated with the license and any plans for disposition and future use of the property. The board must deny a transfer if, based on an assessment provided by DEWD, (1) the applicant has not demonstrated that there is an appropriate future use of the property from which the license is to be transferred or (2) the transfer will result in significant negative economic impact to the community that surrounds the property. The board may waive this requirement if, with the concurrence of DEWD, the board finds that the license holder has undertaken good faith efforts to facilitate a future use of the property and mitigate any negative economic impacts to the surrounding community.

When the license holder has no ownership in the property from which the license is to be transferred, DEWD may submit a letter to the board regarding the economic impact of the transfer on the community that surrounds the property from which the license is to be transferred. The board may deny a transfer based on such a letter unless the board finds that the applicant has undertaken a good faith effort to facilitate a future use of the property by advising the property owner of the intention to transfer the license to another location. The applicant may submit information to the board in support of the transfer.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

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

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