

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 636
Finance

(Senator Folden)

Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Tasting Permits

This bill converts Frederick County’s beer and wine consumption permit and its beer, wine, and liquor consumption permit into a beer and wine tasting permit, and a beer, wine, and liquor tasting permit, respectively. The bill removes specified limitations on the size and quantity of sample servings of beer, wine, and liquor and instead requires the Frederick County Board of License Commissioners to regulate the quantity of beer, wine, and liquor that can be served by a permit holder to an individual and the number of bottles or other containers from which the quantity is served. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Frederick County finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The board may issue a beer and wine consumption permit or a beer, wine, and liquor consumption permit to a holder of an appropriate Class A license. A consumption permit authorizes a license holder to serve specified alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption. An establishment with a consumption permit may allow an individual to consume a single serving of 12 total ounces of beer or 6 total ounces of wine, and for liquor permit holders, 1.5 total ounces of liquor. Alternatively, an establishment can allow an individual to consume three individual sample servings of beer and wine (and liquor, when applicable) in any combination, each consisting of not more than 2 ounces of

beer, 1 ounce of wine, or 0.5 ounce of liquor. A consumption permit holder cannot serve open alcoholic beverages from a drive-through window, and the permit only authorizes consumption of alcoholic beverages on the licensed premises.

The board may issue a consumption permit without a public hearing. However, if an initial permit application is denied, the board must hold a public hearing on request of the applicant. The annual permit fee is \$200 for a beer and wine consumption permit and \$400 for a beer, wine, and liquor consumption permit.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 1026 (Frederick County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2025
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