

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 939
Finance

(Senator Hayes)

Economic Matters

Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Authorizations and Revisions

This bill requires the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners to impose a fee of up to \$250 for expedited processing of a Class C per diem license application if that application is submitted less than two weeks before the scheduled event requiring the per diem license. The bill authorizes the board to issue a Class C beer and light wine license, a Class C beer and wine license, and a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license to specified locations in the 40th alcoholic beverages district. The bill also prohibits certain license holders within a specified area of the 40th alcoholic beverages district from selling alcoholic beverages before 10 a.m. or after 10 p.m. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City revenues increase beginning in FY 2026 to the extent additional licenses are issued or fees are imposed under the bill. Baltimore City expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The board is authorized to adopt regulations relating to the Class C per diem license application process, including the denial, revocation, and limitation on the number of Class C per diem licenses that may be issued to a person for the same location within a calendar year.

The bill authorizes the board to issue a Class C beer and light wine license in the 2500 block of West North Avenue in the 40th alcoholic beverages district to be used during on-campus events if (1) the applicant executes a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Greater Mondawmin Coordinating Council and (2) the board waives any requirements that sales can be made only to members and the guests of members.

The board may issue a Class C beer and wine license on the odd side of the 800 block of North Howard Street in the 40th alcoholic beverages district if (1) the applicant does not convert the license to a different license class; (2) the applicant does not transfer the license to a different location; (3) alcoholic beverages are served only to patrons indoors; (4) alcoholic beverages sales begin not earlier than 10:00 a.m. and end not later than 9:00 p.m.; (5) the applicant provides not more than two 12-ounce offerings of beer or two 6-ounce offerings of wine by the glass for on-premises consumption by a patron while the patron is provided a barbering service, as specified; (6) the board waives any requirements that sales can be made only to members and the guests of members; and (7) the applicant executes an MOU with the Mount Vernon – Belvedere Association.

The board may issue a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license for a restaurant on the even side of the unit block of South Carrollton Avenue in the 40th alcoholic beverages district if (1) the applicant executes an MOU with the Hollins Roundhouse Association; and (2) the board waives the minimum seating requirement of 75 individuals.

The bill also removes the Class M-F (municipal family fun center) license from certain restrictions limiting the hours of sale for alcoholic beverages within the 40th alcoholic beverages district from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., as specified.

Current Law:

Class C Per Diem Licenses – Generally

The board must set the license fee for a Class C per diem beer license and a Class C per diem beer and wine license, and a Class C per diem beer, wine, and liquor license. Additionally, the board is authorized to collect from the license holder reimbursement for costs incurred while monitoring the event which the license is issued.

A Class C per diem beer license, Class C per diem beer and wine, or Class C per diem beer, wine, and liquor license entitles the license holder to exercise any of the privileges conferred by the respective class of license (1) for the use of a person holding an entertainment event that is conducted by a club; (2) at the place described in the license; and (3) for a period not exceeding seven consecutive days.

Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor Licenses— Generally

The board may issue a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license to a restaurant in the 40th alcoholic beverages district if that restaurant (1) has a minimum capital investment, not including the cost of land and buildings, of \$200,000 for restaurant facilities and (2) has a minimum seating capacity of 75 individuals.

Class M-F (Municipal Family Fun Center)

In Baltimore City, there is a Class M-F (municipal family fun center) license for use at a municipal bowling alley and skating rink located in a specified area. The board may issue the license to an individual who (1) is authorized by the mayor and city council through a management agreement to sell food, beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption, as specified; and (2) has executed a memorandum of understanding with the Upton West Community Association. The annual license fee is \$500.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 1172 (Delegate Amprey) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2025
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