

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 648 (Montgomery County Delegation)
Economic Matters

Montgomery County - Winery Special Event Permits - Farmers' Markets
MC 3-13

This bill alters the number of additional winery special event permits that may be issued to a Class 4 Maryland limited winery for use at farmers' markets in Montgomery County so that not more than one additional winery special event permit may be issued per week, rather than not more than 12 additional permits per calendar year.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill's changes can be accommodated with the existing budgeted resources of the Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. It is assumed that additional winery special events permits will be beneficial to permit holders.

Analysis

Current Law: The Comptroller's Office may issue up to 12 winery special event permits to a holder of a Class 4 manufacturer's (Maryland limited winery) license in any given calendar year, and the permit does not exceed three consecutive days. With some exceptions, an individual may not be granted more than three winery special event permits for use in the same political subdivision during a calendar year. Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties allow an individual to

receive an additional 12 winery special event permits for use at farmers' markets in each county. Additionally, Calvert, Charles, Dorchester, and St. Mary's counties allow certain winery special event permits to be issued for unlimited use for one day, weekly.

The winery special event permit may only be issued for an event which (1) has as its major purpose an activity other than the sale and promotion of alcoholic beverages and for which the participation of the winery is a subordinate activity; (2) is approved by the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Comptroller's Office; and (3) is held on a nonlicensed premises or a premises on which a person may obtain a temporary alcoholic beverages license.

A winery special event permit authorizes the permit holder to provide one-ounce samples, sell wine by the glass for on-premises consumption, and sell no more than four 750 ml bottles of wine to a consumer for off-premises consumption. The fee for a winery special event permit is \$25 per event.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture, Comptroller's Office, Montgomery County, Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/hlb

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

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