

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 231

(Calvert County Senators)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Calvert County - Alcoholic Beverages - Special Beer and Wine Festival License

This bill modifies the scope of the existing special wine festival license to create a special beer and wine festival (BWF) license in Calvert County. The fee for the license is \$15. The Calvert County Board of License Commissioners may issue a license to a holder of an existing retail alcoholic beverages license that authorizes the sale of beer or wine, a Class 3 winery license, a Class 4 winery license, a Class 5 brewery license, a Class 7 micro-brewery license, a Class 8 farm brewery license, or to a not-for-profit organization. The license entitles the holder to display and sell at retail beer or wine for consumption on or off the licensed premises on the days and hours designated for the beer festival, wine festival, or beer and wine festival in the county. The board must approve (1) up to four weekends each year for each applicant and (2) locations in the county for the festivals.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Calvert County alcoholic beverages license fee revenues increase minimally beginning in FY 2016 from the issuance of additional special festival licenses at \$15 each. Monitoring of licenses can be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal positive impact for small businesses now able to promote their products at the festivals.

Analysis

Current Law: The Calvert County Board of License Commissioners may issue a special wine festival license to a holder of an existing retail alcoholic beverages license that authorizes the sale of wine, a Class 3 winery license, or a Class 4 winery license. The license fee is \$15. The license entitles the holder to display and sell at retail wine for consumption on or off the licensed premises on the days and hours designated for the wine festival in the county. The board is required to approve (1) one weekend annually for the wine festival and (2) a location in the county for the festival that does not hold an alcoholic beverages license.

Background: Beer and wine festivals are held annually throughout the State. They are generally seen as advertising and publicity events for businesses participating in the festival. Calvert County issued no special wine festival licenses in 2014.

In fiscal 2014, the State issued 7,032 retail alcoholic beverages licenses that authorized the sale of beer or wine, 3 Class 3 winery licenses, 71 Class 4 winery licenses, 18 Class 5 brewery licenses, 27 Class 7 micro-brewery licenses, and 5 Class 8 farm brewery licenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Calvert County, Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2015
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