

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 424

(Howard County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages - Special Event - Education Permits
Ho. Co. 05-15

This bill authorizes the Howard County Board of License Commissioners to issue a special event-education beer and wine tasting (BWT) alcoholic beverages permit and a special event-education beer, wine, and liquor tasting (BWLTL) permit. A holder of a Class A beer and wine (BW) license may be issued a BWT permit, and a holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license may be issued a BWT or a BWLTL permit. The annual permit fee for each is \$100. The Howard County Board of License Commissioners may adopt regulations to implement the bill.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Howard County revenues increase by \$100 annually for each permit issued. Expenditures are not materially affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but potential meaningful positive impact for any small business that acquires a permit to host special educational tasting events.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill defines “special event-education” as an event at which a speaker provides instruction on how to develop a foundation of alcoholic beverages knowledge, including (1) styles of beer, wine, and liquor; (2) methods of tasting beer, wine, and liquor;

(3) pairing food and beer, wine, and liquor; and (4) serving, storing, and buying beer, wine, and liquor.

Special Event-Education BWT Permit

The holder of a special event-education BWT permit may provide, to a consumer who has preregistered for a special event-education, beer or wine from the holder's inventory at a prorated charge that covers the cost of the event, including alcoholic beverages, snacks, and a speaker.

The permit holder may not serve more than (1) one ounce of wine from any individual brand or more than six ounces of wine to any one person in a single day or (2) two ounces of beer from any one brand or more than six ounces of beer to any one person in a single day.

Special Event-Education BWLT Permit

The holder of a special event-education BWLT permit may provide, to a consumer who has preregistered for a special event-education, beer, wine, or liquor from the holder's inventory at a prorated charge that covers the cost of the event, including alcoholic beverages, snacks, and a speaker.

The permit holder may not serve more than (1) one ounce of wine from any individual brand or more than six ounces of wine to any one person in a single day; (2) two ounces of beer from any one brand or more than six ounces of beer to any one person in a single day; or (3) one half ounce of liquor from any one brand or more than three ounce of liquor to any one person in a single day.

For both the special event-education BWT permit and BWLT permit, the permit authorizes the on-premises consumption, for tasting or sampling only, of beer or wine containing not more than 15.5% alcohol by volume. The BWLT permit also authorizes the on-premises consumption, for tasting or sampling only, of liquor.

Current Law:

Beer and Wine Tasting License

In Howard County, the board may issue a beer and wine tasting (BWT) alcoholic beverages license to a holder of a (1) Class A BW license or (2) Class A BWL license. A BWT license authorizes the on-premises consumption, for tasting or sampling only, of beer or wine containing not more than 15.5% of alcohol by volume.

A BWT license holder may not serve more than (1) one ounce of wine from any individual brand or more than four ounces of wine to any one person in a single day or (2) three ounces of beer from any one brand or more than eight ounces of beer to any one person in a single day. The annual license fee for a BWT license is \$100 in addition to the fee for any other alcoholic beverages license.

Beer, Wine, and Liquor Tasting License

In Howard County, the board may issue a beer, wine, and liquor tasting (BWL) alcoholic beverages license to a holder of a Class A BWL license. A BWL license authorizes the on-premises consumption, for tasting or sampling only, of beer, wine containing not more than 15.5% of alcohol by volume, or liquor. A holder of a BWL license may not serve more than (1) one ounce of wine from any individual brand or more than four ounces of wine to any one person in a single day; (2) three ounces of beer from any one brand or more than eight ounces of beer to any one person in a single day; or (3) one quarter ounce of liquor from any one brand or more than one ounce of liquor to any one person in a single day. The annual license fee for a BWL license is \$100 in addition to the fee for any other alcoholic beverages license.

Background: In fiscal 2014, there were 61 Class A BWL licenses in effect in Howard County. No Class A BW licenses were in effect.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2015
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Analysis by: Nathan W. McCurdy

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