

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 852

(Senator Astle)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer and Wine Festivals

This bill authorizes the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners to issue a beer and wine festival (BWF) license for any festival the board approves of and makes conforming changes. The bill also authorizes the BWF license to be issued to a nonprofit organization if specified conditions are met. Finally, the bill specifies that the holder of a BWF license may sell beer or wine at a festival without holding a State-issued nonprofit beer festival permit or State-issued nonprofit wine festival permit.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Anne Arundel County revenues increase by \$2,500 for each BWF license issued as a result of the bill. Monitoring of the licenses can be handled using existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. Small businesses may benefit from participating in any additional beer and wine festivals authorized under the bill.

Analysis

Current Law: The Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue a BWF license to the holder of a retail alcoholic beverages license, a Class 3 winery license, or a Class 4 limited winery license. The license may only be issued for the Anne Arundel County Beer and Wine Festival or the Benson-Hammond House Strawberry

Festival. The board is authorized to set the license fee by regulation, and the current fee for a BWF license is \$2,500.

The license authorizes the holder to display and sell (1) beer that is brewed by a brewer that brews less than 60,000 barrels of beer annually and (2) wine that is manufactured and processed in any state. Any beer or wine displayed and sold must be distributed in Maryland when the license application is filed. The license authorizes beer and wine to be sold at retail for on- and off-premises consumption during the hours and days designated by the festival.

In addition to the various local festivals held throughout the State, the Comptroller's Office issues wine festival permits and beer festival permits. The permit may be issued to a nonprofit organization and authorizes the permit holder to conduct a beer or wine festival that lasts between one and three days. The permit fee is \$100.

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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel County, Department of Legislative Services

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