

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1201
Economic Matters

(Cecil County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Cecil County - Alcoholic Beverages - Beer, Wine, and Liquor Tasting License

This bill establishes a beer, wine, and liquor tasting (BWLT) license in Cecil County and authorizes the Cecil County Board of License Commissioners to issue a BWLT license to the holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license or a Class B BWL license. A BWLT license authorizes the holder to allow the on-premises consumption of beer, wine, and liquor for tasting. Under the bill, an individual may not consume more than one ounce from each beer or wine offered, and not more than one-half ounce from each liquor offered. The license may be issued for (1) any 26 days in a licensing period for \$125; (2) any 52 days in a licensing period for \$200; or (3) for the entire one-year licensing period for \$400. If a license holder is issued a BWLT license for use during any 26 days or 52 days in a licensing period, the licensee must notify the board at least 7 days before exercising the license privileges.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Cecil County alcoholic beverages license fee revenues increase minimally beginning in FY 2018 from issuance of BWLT licenses. Any enforcement activities can be handled with existing resources

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal. Holders of Class A BWL or Class B BWL licenses in Cecil County may realize increased sales resulting from the use of the BWLT license.

Analysis

Current Law: In Cecil County, a wine tasting (Class T) license authorizes the holder to hold wine tasting parties and demonstrations. The license must be issued on a form that the board requires and be signed and sworn to by the applicant. The license may only be issued to a person up to four times in a calendar year, for a total of up to four days in a calendar year. The license fee is \$25 per day.

Background: In fiscal 2016, 23 Class A BWL licenses, and 89 Class B BWL licenses, were issued for use in Cecil County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 816 (Cecil County Senators) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Cecil County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2017
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