

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

Senate Bill 1102

(Senator Mathias)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

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**Worcester County - Ocean City Convention Center - Beer and Wine Tasting License**

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This bill establishes a one-day beer and wine tasting license in Worcester County and authorizes the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners to issue the license to an organization representing local governments in the State for the primary purpose of promoting products and businesses from across the State. The board may not issue more than two licenses per year, and an organization may only apply for one license per year. An organization must apply for the license at least 15 days before the license is to be issued. The license fee is \$100. The license authorizes the holder to allow the on-premises consumption, for tasting, of beer or wine on the premises of the Ocean City Convention Center, with the approval of the management of the convention center. A license holder may serve up to two ounces from each offering of wine or up to three ounces from each offering of beer. An individual who serves beer or wine must complete specified alcohol awareness training.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Worcester County revenues increase by a minimal amount from application and license fees. Worcester County can monitor new licenses with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** In Maryland, alcoholic beverages licenses are granted by each jurisdiction's board of license commissioners to permit the sale and consumption of alcohol at specified places such as restaurants, taverns, hotels, clubs, or places of public entertainment. Other types of establishments cannot normally acquire a license but may be granted eligibility to apply.

### *Alcohol Awareness Training*

Generally, for a premises that is licensed to sell alcoholic beverages with off-sale privileges, or a premises that is licensed with on-sale privileges and sells alcoholic beverages directly to a customer from a bar or service bar, the license holder or specified employees must complete training in an approved alcohol awareness program in order to obtain and retain their alcoholic beverages license. The training program must be approved and certified by the Comptroller, and it must provide information on how alcohol affects a person's body and behavior, the dangers of drinking and driving, refusing service before a customer becomes intoxicated, and determining if a customer is old enough to legally consume alcohol. The training is valid for four years.

**Background:** In fiscal 2016, 300 alcoholic beverages licenses were issued for use in Worcester County.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 9, 2017  
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