

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 797

(Howard County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages - Thresholds for Tasting
Ho. Co. 19-17

This bill increases, in Howard County, the per offering and daily total volume limit of beer and wine that may be served to an individual under a beer and wine tasting (BWT) license, as well as the per offering and daily total volume limit of beer, wine, and liquor that may be served to an individual under a beer, wine, and liquor tasting (BWLTL) license.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Howard County finances are not directly affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: Changes to the per offering and daily total volume limits under a BWT license are shown in **Exhibit 1**. Changes to the per offering and daily total volume limits under a BWLTL license are shown in **Exhibit 2**.

Exhibit 1
Current and Proposed Volume Limits for BWT License

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Beer		
Per Offering	3 ounces	6 ounces
Per Day	8 ounces	16 ounces
Wine		
Per Offering	1 ounce	2 ounces
Per Day	4 ounces	8 ounces

BWT: beer and wine tasting

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Exhibit 2
Current and Proposed Volume Limits for BWLT License

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Beer		
Per Offering	3 ounces	6 ounces
Per Day	8 ounces	16 ounces
Wine		
Per Offering	1 ounce	2 ounces
Per Day	4 ounces	8 ounces
Liquor		
Per Offering	1/4 ounce	1/2 ounce
Per Day	1 ounce	2 ounces

BWLT: beer, wine, and liquor tasting

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Beer and Wine Tasting License

In Howard County, the board may issue a BWT alcoholic beverages license to a holder of a Class A beer and wine (BW) license or a Class A beer, wine, and liquor (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. 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 BWLT alcoholic beverages license to a holder of a Class A BWL license. A BWLT license authorizes the on-premises consumption, for tasting or sampling only, of beer and wine containing not more than 15.5% of alcohol by volume or liquor. The annual license fee for a BWLT license is \$100, in addition to the fee for any other alcoholic beverages license.

Background: In fiscal 2016, there were 62 Class A BWL licenses issued in Howard County. No Class A BW licenses were issued in fiscal 2016.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2017
fn/tso Third Reader - March 10, 2017

Analysis by: Nathan W. McCurdy

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