

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 309
Economic Matters

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Montgomery County - Beer, Wine, and Liquor Festival License
MC 7-17

This bill authorizes Montgomery County to conduct the Montgomery County Beer, Wine, and Liquor Festival through a “festival organization” to be selected by the county. The bill establishes various requirements and limitations regarding the festival and the nonprofit organization selected to organize the festival.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Minimal increase in Montgomery County revenues from license fees collected from vendors that obtain a license to sell or display alcoholic beverages at the festival. Montgomery County can implement the bill with existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal positive impact for small businesses that promote their products at the beer, wine, and liquor festivals.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Festival organization” means a nonprofit organization that is selected by Montgomery County to organize a festival. In selecting a nonprofit organization, the county must ensure that the organization has extensive experience in organizing and managing large-scale public events.

The festival organization must choose the weekends and location to hold the festival. The location chosen may or may not be already licensed. The festival organization must also ensure that the primary focus of the festival is the promotion of Maryland beer, wine, and liquor.

Before a person may sell or display beer, wine, and liquor at the festival, the person must contract with the festival organization and also obtain a special beer, wine, and liquor festival license from the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners. The license fee is \$30 per day, and the license may only be issued to the holders of specified types of alcoholic beverages licenses. License fees are deposited into the county's general fund. Alcoholic beverages must only be displayed and sold during festival hours for consumption on or off premises.

The board may deny, suspend, or revoke a special beer, wine, and liquor festival license or impose a fine of up to \$20,000 if the applicant or licensee violates a provision of the Alcoholic Beverages Article or the board's regulations. The board must adopt regulations to implement the bill.

Current Law/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. Montgomery County is currently authorized to conduct a wine festival and a beer festival in a similar manner as the beer, wine, and liquor festival proposed by the bill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 1, 2017
mm/tso Third Reader - March 10, 2017

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