

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1575
Economic Matters

(Baltimore County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages - Multiple Class B Licenses

This bill (1) clarifies that the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners may allow a person to obtain an interest in up to 12 Class B beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) licenses regardless of the number of licenses issued in another jurisdiction or state; (2) repeals provisions related to the minimum dining seating capacity and the maximum size of a cocktail lounge or bar; (3) increases, from 40% to 49%, the maximum amount of sales in alcoholic beverages in connection with the business; (4) requires a premises issued second or subsequent Class B BWL license to have a minimum capital investment of \$250,000 for restaurant facilities; and (5) specifies that a second or subsequent Class B BWL license does not confer an off-sale privilege. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore County operations or finances are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill repeals the requirement that an establishment issued a Class B BWL license have a cocktail lounge or bar area seating capacity that does not exceed 25% of the dining seating capacity as well as the requirement that an establishment have a minimum dining seating capacity of 190 individuals.

Current Law: The board may allow a person to obtain a direct or indirect interest in (1) not more than 12 Class B BWL licenses, or (2) if one of the restaurants is located in the Liberty Road Commercial Revitalization District, not more than 13 Class B BWL licenses. Generally, a Class B BWL license does not confer an off-sale privilege.

In addition to other specified requirements, a restaurant issued a Class B BWL license must have a minimum dining seating capacity of 190 individuals, and have a cocktail lounge or bar area with seating capacity that does not exceed 25% of the dining seating capacity. A restaurant issued a Class B BWL license must have not more than 40% of sales in alcoholic beverages in connection with the business.

Background: In fiscal 2017, 781 alcoholic beverages licensees were issued for use in Baltimore County, including 335 Blass B BWL licenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2018
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