

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Enrolled

House Bill 311  
Economic Matters

(Dorchester County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Dorchester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class A Licenses

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This bill authorizes the Dorchester County Board of License Commissioners to issue Class A beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) licenses to holders of Class B and Class D licenses. The bill also authorizes the board to limit the number of Class A BWL licenses it issues. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Dorchester County revenues increase based on the number of Class A BWL licenses issued as a result of the bill. Monitoring of any additional licenses issued can be handled using existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal overall, but potential meaningful for any small business already holding a Class B or Class D license that obtains a Class A BWL license as a result of the bill.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The board may issue a Class A beer or Class A beer and wine (BW) license to those already possessing a Class B or Class D alcoholic beverages license. Generally, Class B licenses are held by restaurants and Class D licenses by bars and taverns.

**Background:** In fiscal 2018, there were a total of 90 alcoholic beverage licenses issued in Dorchester County. **Exhibit 1** shows the total number of licenses in each category.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Dorchester County Fiscal 2018 Alcoholic Beverages Licenses**

<b><u>License Type</u></b>	<b><u>Beer</u></b>	<b><u>Beer and Wine (BW)</u></b>	<b><u>Beer, Wine, and Liquor (BWL)</u></b>
Class A	14	16	15
Class B	0	6	26
Class C	0	0	10
Class D	0	3	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>51</b>

Source: Comptroller's Office

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**Local Fiscal Effect/Revenues:** As of January 2019, Dorchester County anticipates two qualified businesses being interested in applying for a Class A BWL license. Beginning in fiscal 2019, Dorchester County revenues increase by \$2,500 annually for each additional Class A BWL license issued.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 111 (Senator Eckardt) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Dorchester County; Comptroller's Office; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 5, 2019  
mag/tso Third Reader - March 19, 2019  
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