

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 772

(Delegate Szeliga, *et al.*)

Economic Matters

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Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages - Sunday Sales

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This bill repeals specified existing restrictions on Sunday sales and authorizes the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners to issue a Sunday permit to a holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license in Baltimore County. The permit fee may not exceed \$600. The Sunday permit authorizes the sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption on Sunday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Baltimore County revenues increase by up to \$112,800 in FY 2020 and annually thereafter from Sunday permit fees. Baltimore County can handle the impact study and any enforcement activity with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Potentially meaningful. The bill's expansion of Sunday sales could result in significant increases in alcoholic beverages sales for affected licenses.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** Uncodified language in the bill requires the board to conduct a study to ascertain whether granting Sunday permits will result in any economic impact on the existing holders of licenses that allow Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages in Baltimore County. The study must be conducted within 120 days of the bill's July 1, 2019 effective date.

If the board determines that granting Sunday permits will result in a demonstrable economic impact on existing license holders, the board must work with the license holders in developing an additional fee for the Sunday permit and mitigating the impact.

**Current Law:** In Baltimore County, the Class A BWL license authorizes the retail sale of sell beer, wine, and liquor at the place described in the license from Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to midnight. The license holder must deliver the beer, wine, or liquor in a sealed container that may not be opened or its contents consumed on the licensed premises. The annual license fee is \$900.

The license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the Sunday immediately before:

- Christmas Day;
- New Year's Day;
- Rosh Hashanah; and
- Yom Kippur.

A license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor on the two Sundays immediately before Passover if (1) the license holder does not sell beer, wine, and liquor on the two Saturdays immediately before Passover; (2) the off-premises sales are conducted on those Sundays from 6 a.m. to midnight; and (3) the sales are limited to beer, wine, and liquor that are "kosher for Passover." Similar Sunday sales requirements apply for the remaining beer, wine, and liquor licenses in the county.

**Local Revenues:** In fiscal 2018, there were 188 Class A BWL licenses issued in Baltimore County. Accordingly, anticipated licensing revenues under the bill increase up to \$112,800 in fiscal 2020 and annually thereafter from Sunday permit fees. This estimate assumes that the board authorizes a \$600 permit fee.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 975 of 2018 received a hearing in the House Economic Matters Committee but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2019  
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Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

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