

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 281  
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Multiple Licenses Prohibition -  
Exceptions  
PG 305-20

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This bill removes the prohibition against the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners issuing multiple Class B-BW (on-sale) or Class B-BWL (on-sale) alcoholic beverages licenses to the same person or premises. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Prince George's County revenues increase to the extent that the board issues additional Class B licenses under the bill. Prince George's County can handle any additional enforcement activity with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal overall but potentially meaningful for a small business that may wish to hold multiple alcoholic beverage licenses under the bill.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** In general, a person cannot have an interest in more than 1 alcoholic beverages license issued in Prince George's County. Chapter 587 of 2019 increased, from 10 to 15, the number of Class BLX luxury restaurant licenses the board may issue to a single license holder. The multiple licenses prohibition also does not apply in Prince George's County to specified bowling establishments, or to Class B-ECF/DS (Education Conference Facility/Dining Service) beer, wine, and liquor licenses.

*Class B-BW (on-sale) License*

The Class B-BW (on-sale) license authorizes the license holder to sell beer and light wine at a hotel or restaurant for on-premises consumption only. The annual license fee is \$365.

*Class B-BWL (on-sale) License*

The Class B-BWL (on-sale) license authorizes a restaurant to sell beer, wine, and liquor license for on-premises consumption, under certain circumstances. The restaurant may sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption under certain circumstances and only if the restaurant held the license prior on July 1, 1970. The annual license fee is \$1,445.

**Background:** In fiscal 2019, there were 616 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Prince George's County, 349 of which were Class B licenses. There were 28 Class B-BW licenses and 317 Class B-BWL licenses.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** For each additional license issued, Prince George's County revenues increase by \$365 for a Class B-BW license and \$1,445 for a Class B-BWL license.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 6, 2020  
mr/tso Third Reader - March 16, 2020

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