

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 864  
Economic Matters

(Harford County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

**Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Hotel Lobby License**

---

This bill creates a hotel lobby license in Harford County that authorizes the sale of beer, wine, and liquor from a store in the hotel lobby to patrons of the hotel for on-premises consumption. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Harford County revenues increase by a minimal amount from fees associated with the hotel lobby license. Expenditures are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal overall, but potential meaningful for a small business that obtains a hotel lobby license.

---

**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The Harford County Board of License Commissioners may issue a hotel lobby license for use by a hotel that does not have a restaurant. A hotel lobby license authorizes the license holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor from a store in the hotel lobby to patrons of the hotel for on-premises consumption.

Beer may be sold only in a can or bottle that does not exceed 12 ounces. Wine may be sold only in a bottle that does not exceed 750 milliliters. Liquor may be sold only in a bottle that does not exceed 50 milliliters.

A hotel lobby license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor on Monday through Saturday, from noon to 10:00 p.m.; and on Sunday, from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

A hotel lobby license holder may not sell beer, wine, and liquor through a vending machine; or by stocking beer, wine, and liquor in a guest room for purchase.

The annual license fee is \$1,250.

**Current Law:** In Harford County, a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license may be issued to a hotel that (1) accommodates the public and provides service ordinarily found in hotels and (2) has at least 25 rooms, a lobby with a registration and mail desk, and a dining room that serves full-course meals at least twice daily.

There is a Class B-3 restaurant/hotel six-day license and a Class B-3 restaurant/hotel seven-day license, that can be issued to a person who (1) has been operating a restaurant or hotel under a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license for one year before the application for the Class B-3 license; (2) accounts for at least 25% of the business at the restaurant or hotel from the sale of food; and (3) in the judgment of the board has equipped and stocked the restaurant or hotel for the continued sale of food to customers and guests.

**Background:** In fiscal 2019, there were 201 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Harford County, including 89 Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses.

---

### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 375 (Harford County Senators) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 10, 2020  
af/tso Third Reader - March 6, 2020

---

Analysis by: Hillary J. Cleckler

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