

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 375

(Harford County Senators)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

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: HB 864 (Harford County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2020
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