

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 945 (Senator Hayes)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Liquor Store Cameras

This bill requires the holder of a Class A beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license or a Class A-2 BWL (package goods) license in Baltimore City to operate a digital surveillance system on the licensed premises in accordance with specified requirements. In consultation with the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners must adopt regulations relating to digital surveillance by August 15, 2020. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City can handle any enforcement activity with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but potentially meaningful for alcoholic beverages licensees in Baltimore City that must install and operate digital surveillance systems under the bill.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The digital surveillance system required under the bill must be equipped with high-definition cameras that provide continuous, 24-hour video monitoring placed inside and outside the licensed establishment. The cameras must be placed in such a way that the exterior and interior of each entryway and the cash register or till is monitored. Video recorded from the surveillance system must be retained for at least 14 days. On request of the Baltimore Police Department, the license holder must provide access to the

recorded video. The license holder must post signs notifying individuals that they are being recorded.

Current Law:

Class A BWL License

A Class A BWL license authorizes the holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor at retail at the place described in the license. The license holder must deliver the beer, wine, or liquor in a sealed package or container that may not be opened or its contents consumed on the licensed premises. The annual license fee is \$858. Generally, the days and hours of sale are Monday through Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to midnight. In the area specified in the Park Heights Master Plan adopted by the city in 2006, the hours of sale are from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Class A-2 BWL (Package Goods) License

A Class A-2 BWL license authorizes the holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor at retail at the place described in the license. The license holder must deliver the beer, wine, or liquor in a sealed package or container that may not be opened or its contents consumed on the licensed premises. A Class B-D-7 BWL license may not be reissued as a Class A-2 license, and a Class A-2 license may not be converted to or substituted for any other class of license. The annual license fee is \$858. The hours and days of sale are Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to midnight.

Adoption of Regulations

Before the board may adopt a regulation, (1) the board must provide a period of at least 30 days for public comment and (2) the city solicitor must review the regulation to ensure that the regulation complies with the statutory authority granted to the board by the State. The board must publish adopted regulations online and distribute them to license holders whom the regulations affect.

Background: According to the Comptroller's Office, in fiscal 2019, there were 1,208 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Baltimore City, including 207 Class A BWL licenses.

Additional Comment: The bill requires that the board adopt regulations by August 15, 2020 – 45 days after the bill's effective date. It is unclear whether the board can feasibly adopt regulations within this timeframe while meeting all applicable requirements of State law.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 2020
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