

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 558

(Anne Arundel County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages - Entertainment Facilities

This emergency bill alters the manner in which the holder of an entertainment facility license in Anne Arundel County may sell beer, wine, and liquor to include the sale by the glass or by the bottle. The bill expands the scope of authorized acts that may be performed in the licensed entertainment facility, as specified. The bill authorizes the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners to allow the holder of an entertainment facility license to sell alcoholic beverages for promotional events in an area adjacent to the entertainment facility if that area is both under controlled access of the license holder and is a parking lot, picnic ground, building, or terrace controlled by the license holder. The bill also authorizes the board to revoke an entertainment facility license for displays of nudity and sexual acts at the entertainment facility, as specified.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Anne Arundel County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: In Anne Arundel County, an “entertainment facility” is a location that contains one or more food service facilities, bars, or lounges that are part of the operation of the entertainment facility.

An entertainment facility license permits the holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor in any location of the entertainment facility that is not covered by an entertainment concessionaire license for consumption anywhere in the facility. Additionally, the license authorizes the playing of music and dancing.

Generally, the board is required to revoke an alcoholic beverages license if after a hearing the license holder is found to provide prohibited sexual entertainment on its premises, as specified. However, the board may not revoke a license if (1) the person operates a theater, concert hall, art center, museum, or similar establishment that is primarily devoted to the arts or theatrical performances and (2) the performances express matters of serious literary, artistic, scientific, or political value.

In fiscal 2019, there were 553 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Anne Arundel County. There is one entertainment facility license in Anne Arundel County (Maryland Live!).

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 126 (Senator Reilly) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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