

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 248 (Senator Jennings)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class D Beer and Wine License

This bill establishes a Class D beer and wine license in Harford County and repeals the prohibition on the issuance of a Class D beer and wine license in the county. The license authorizes the license holder to sell beer and wine, at retail, at the place described in the license, for on-premises consumption only. The Harford County Board of License Commissioners is prohibited from issuing more than five Class D licenses to the same person. The license holder is not required to sell food but is required to provide prepackaged snacks. The board is prohibited from requiring the license holder to meet a minimum capital investment in the premises. The license holder is subject to the alcohol awareness training requirements under § 4-505 of the Alcoholic Beverages article. The license holder may sell beer and wine on Monday through Sunday, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the following day. The annual license fee is \$1,000. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Harford County revenues increase to the extent Class D beer and wine licenses are issued under the bill. Harford County can handle enforcement activities with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Class D beer and wine licenses are prohibited from being issued in Harford County. In Maryland, Class D licenses generally authorize licensees to sell alcoholic beverages in a tavern or bar for consumption only on the licensed premises unless otherwise authorized by the local jurisdiction.

Local Fiscal Effect: Harford County revenues increase by \$1,000 from license fees for each Class D license issued under the bill. However, the number of Class D licenses that might be issued in the county is unknown at this time. Harford County can handle enforcement activities with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 144 (Delegate Reilly) - Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 2021
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