

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1234
Economic Matters

(Frederick County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages Act of 2022

This bill makes several changes to alcoholic beverages license provisions in Frederick County, including (1) repealing redundant alcohol awareness training requirements for certain licenses; (2) repealing crowd control training requirements for a specified license; (3) repealing county residency requirements for various license applications, as specified; (4) repealing specific petition of support requirements; (5) specifying how certain notice requirements may be fulfilled by the Frederick County Board of License Commissioners; (6) altering a quota for certain Class A licenses; (7) altering the renewal period for annual licenses; and (8) altering the dates by which the board may issue certain license renewals. The bill also specifies that certain license application documents are subject to State requirements under the Public Information Act. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

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

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law:

Alcohol Awareness Training

The bill repeals redundant alcohol awareness training requirements for barbershop beer and wine licenses, beauty salon beer and wine licenses, and Class CT (cinema/theater) (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor licenses, as specified. However, alcohol awareness training program requirements still exist for these licenses under § 20-1901 and § 20-1903 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article.

Crowd Control

The bill repeals the requirement that a Class CT (cinema/theater) (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license holder obtain a crowd control training certificate from a program that is certified by the State and also repeals the requirement of having one certified crowd control manager on the licensed premises for every 250 individuals present while selling beer, wine, and liquor.

Requirements for Various License Applications

The bill repeals county residency requirements from license applications involving Class C (country and golf club) licenses; Class C (private business club) beer, wine, and liquor licenses; Class C (private country club) beer, wine, and liquor licenses; Class C (theater) beer and wine licenses; and Class C (Weinberg Center) beer, wine, and liquor licenses.

The bill repeals the requirement that an applicant for a Class C (country and golf club) license be signed by the president and two other officers of the country and golf club.

Petition of Support

The bill specifies that petition of support requirements under § 4-110 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article do not apply in the county. Section 4-110 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article requires an application to include a petition of support signed by at least 10 residents who are owners of real estate and registered voters of the precinct in which the business is to be conducted and include specified information.

Notice Requirements

The bill specifies that the board is authorized to fulfill specified notice requirements regarding an application for a license by posting a specified hearing schedule online.

Quota Formula

The bill modifies the population formula that applies to the issuance of Class A alcoholic beverages licenses in an election district in Fredrick County. The bill repeals from the population formula the option to use a major fraction in an election district.

Renewal

The bill alters the renewal period for an annual license from between March 2 and April 1, inclusive to between January 1 and April 15, inclusive.

The bill alters the time period during which the board may issue renewed licenses from between April 15 and May 1, inclusive to between January 1 and May 1, inclusive.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 648 (Senators Young and Hough) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Frederick County; Alcohol and Tobacco Commission; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2022
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