

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 645

(Senators Carozza and Eckardt)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

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Wicomico County - Alcoholic Beverages - Dinner Theater License

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This bill establishes the Class B-DT (dinner theater) beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license in Wicomico County. The Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue the license for the use of a dinner theater that (1) provides specified forms of entertainment to the dinner theater's customers; (2) is open to the public by reservation only; and (3) contains a dining room with facilities for serving full-course meals for at least 80 individuals at one seating. The annual license fee is \$1,500. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Wicomico County revenues increase to the extent that Class B-DT licenses are issued under the bill, beginning in FY 2023. Wicomico County can monitor any additional licenses using existing budgeted resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The license authorizes the license holder to sell at retail for on-premises consumption (1) beer and wine by the drink or bottle and (2) liquor by the drink. A license holder may not sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption, or at any time except in conjunction with the dinner theater.

A license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor beginning two hours before a live performance until the end of the performance and during the hours and days as set out for a Class B BWL license.

The license authorizes the license holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption if food is provided at the function where the beer, wine, and liquor are provided.

**Current Law:**

*Class B BWL License:* In Wicomico County, there is a Class B BWL license. Generally, the board is authorized to issue the license to hotels that meet specified room and seating requirements and to restaurants that meet specified seating requirements and has for each month the average daily receipts from the sale of food exceeding the average daily receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages. The holder of a Class B BWL (on-sale) license is authorized to sell beer, wine, and liquor (1) on Monday through Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the following day, and (2) on Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. to midnight only to customers who are seated at tables on the premises. In addition, the license holder may not sell beer, wine, and liquor at a bar or counter on Sunday. The annual fee is \$1,980 for hotels and \$1,320 for restaurants.

*Class D BWL Entertainment and Amusement License:* There is also a Class D BWL entertainment and amusement license in the county. The board is authorized to issue the license for an entertainment amusement center that meets specified seating capacity and floor space requirements and is equipped with dining room facilities. The annual license fee is \$4,000.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The annual license fee for a Class B-DT license is \$1,500, and there is an initial application fee of \$575 and an annual renewal fee of \$50. Therefore, Wicomico County revenues increase by \$2,075 in fiscal 2023 for each license issued and \$1,550 annually thereafter for each license renewal.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 1180 (Wicomico County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 17, 2022  
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