

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Enrolled - Revised**

Senate Bill 589  
Finance

(Senator Hayes)

Economic Matters

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**Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – Related Event Promoter’s Permit**

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This bill alters certain provisions associated with a related event promoter’s permit issued by the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners. The bill also makes a technical change updating an obsolete reference to the previous authority of the Comptroller’s Office to reference the authority of the Executive Director of the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC). **The bill takes effect June 1, 2023, and terminates June 30, 2025.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect Baltimore City operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary/Current Law:**

*Definition of Related Event*

Chapter 764 of 2019 authorized the board to issue a related event promoter’s permit that authorizes an individual, for-profit organization, or nonprofit organization and a participating license holder to conduct a social event related to and around the same time and location as the basketball tournament of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA).

A “related event promoter” is an individual, for-profit organization, or nonprofit organization that promotes a social event related to and around the same time and location as the CIAA Basketball Tournament. A “related event” is an event in which a license holder participates in a coordinated promotion with a third-party promoter to sell or provide alcoholic beverages during a specified time, and at which at least 75 individuals are reasonably expected to attend. A related event includes an event for which tickets are sold to the public, including a concert, an entertainment event, a happy hour, or a party.

The bill includes in the definition of a related event, an event for which tickets are sold to the public, *either in advance or at the door, or a cover charge is imposed.*

#### *Reduction of the Number of Days for Specified Actions*

Under current law, the time period for an applicant to submit an application to the board for a permit is at least 90 days before the date of the related event. The bill changes the time period to at least 30 days before the date of the related event.

Under current law, the board must grant or deny the permit or request additional information from the applicant within 14 days after receiving the application. Under the bill, the board is required to grant or deny the permit or request additional information from the applicant within 7 days after receiving the application.

Currently, a permit may not be altered within 30 days before the scheduled related event. The bill changes the time period for when a permit may not be altered before the scheduled related event to 14 days.

#### *Standard for Determining Permit Fees*

Under current law, the application fee for a permit is \$50. The permit fee is \$500, if 75 to 299 individuals are reasonably anticipated to participate; and the permit fee is \$1,500, if 300 or more individuals are reasonably anticipated to participate. The bill changes the standard for determining the \$500 and \$1,500 permit fees respectively by requiring the Baltimore City Fire Marshal to determine whether the maximum capacity for the proposed location is less than 300 persons for the \$500 permit fee, or 300 or more persons for the \$1,500 permit fee.

#### *Definition of Certain Offense*

Currently, for the offense of publicizing, selling tickets for, organizing, operating, producing, facilitating, or staging a related event with the knowledge or a reason to know that a related event promoter’s permit required under Title 12 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article has not been obtained, the board must impose a fine of not less than \$1,000 and not

more than \$3,000 or suspend the license or both. The bill alters the definition of the offense by adding *or imposing a cover charge*.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 885 (Delegate Amprey) - Economic Matters.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 17, 2023  
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