

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 736

(Harford County Senators)

Finance

Economic Matters

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Golf Simulator Facility

This bill establishes a Class GSF (golf simulator facility) alcoholic beverages license in Harford County and authorizes the Harford County Board of License Commissioners to issue a license for use by a golf simulator facility that is (1) open to the public; (2) features at least five golf simulator bays; and (3) has accommodations that are predominantly dedicated to golf simulator bays and seating for those bays. The license authorizes the licensee to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption so long as the licensee offers food on site at all times when alcoholic beverages are being sold. The annual license fee is \$1,500. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Harford County revenues increase to the extent the board issues Class GSF licenses under the bill. Harford County can handle any additional enforcement activity with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. To the extent that small business golf simulator facilities currently operate in Harford County, a facility that obtains an alcoholic beverages license may realize additional revenues from being able to sell beer, wine, and liquor on site under the bill. Moreover, by offering a new avenue for golf simulator facilities to generate revenues, the bill may incentivize a small business to open such a facility in the county.

Analysis

Bill Summary: An applicant for a Class GSF license must submit a floor plan or layout of the proposed licensed premises to the board. The floor plan or layout must illustrate that the proposed licensed premises is predominantly dedicated to golf simulator bays and has seating dedicated to those bays.

Additionally, the bill specifies that a licensee's annual gross sales from alcoholic beverages must not exceed 35% of the licensee's annual gross sales. Golf simulator bay rental fees and food sales must comprise, respectively, at least 50% and 15% of the licensee's annual gross sales. Before the board may renew a Class GSF alcoholic beverages license, the licensee must provide the board with an annual gross sales report showing that the licensee has met the specified minimum gross sales percentages for golf simulator bay rental fees and food sales and stayed under the specified maximum gross sales percentage for alcoholic beverages.

Current Law: In Harford County, the board is authorized to issue specified alcoholic beverages licenses, if certain conditions are met, for use by a range of different venues. Examples of such venues include movie theaters, golf course restaurants, public golf courses, and performing arts theaters.

Local Fiscal Effect: Harford County advises that at least one small business is interested in applying for the Class GSF license. The annual license fee for a Class GSF license is \$1,500. Accordingly, Harford County revenues increase by \$1,500 in fiscal 2025 for each new license issued under the bill and \$1,500 annually thereafter for each license renewal.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 632 (Harford County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2024
js/tso Third Reader - March 12, 2024

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