

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 307
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Finance

**Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Nonprofit
Organizations
PG 304-24**

This bill authorizes the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners to issue a Class C (fraternal/sororal/service organization) beer, wine, and liquor license (BWL) for use by an independent and nonprofit nationwide fraternal or sororal organization, as specified. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County revenues increase by approximately \$5,460 annually beginning in FY 2025 from the issuance of Class C (fraternal/sororal/service organization) BWL licenses. Prince George's County can handle any additional enforcement activity using existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The board may suspend or revoke the Class C (fraternal/sororal/service organization) BWL license if, during a one-year period, the license holder is found guilty of two underage violations or two violations of purchasing beer, wine, or liquor from a person other than a licensed wholesaler, or any combination of the two.

“Independent and nonprofit nationwide fraternal or sororal organization” means an organization whose membership is composed solely of graduate members of an independent and nonprofit nationwide fraternal or sororal organization but does not include (1) a college or high school fraternity or sorority or (2) any other fraternity or sorority, the membership of which is restricted in whole or in part to students of an educational institution or a professional school.

Current Law: In Prince George’s County, the board may issue Class C (fraternal/sororal/service organization) BWL licenses to a local unit of a lodge or chapter of a nonprofit and nationwide fraternal, sororal, or service organization that (1) is composed solely of inducted members; (2) was operating in the county before the license application was made; (3) has at least 100 members paying dues of at least \$5 per year per member; and (4) owns or operates a home or clubhouse that is principally for the use of its members and guests when accompanied by members.

The Class C (fraternal/sororal/service organization) BWL license authorizes the holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor by the glass or by the bottle for on-premises consumption by a member or guest accompanied by a member. The license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the following day, in a similar manner as certain existing Class C licenses; however, limitations related to the sale of alcoholic beverages on Sunday do not apply. The annual license fee is \$910.

Local Fiscal Effect: Prince George’s County estimates issuing six Class C (fraternal/sororal/service organization) BWL licenses under the bill. The annual license fee is \$910; therefore, Prince George’s County revenues increase by approximately \$5,460 annually beginning in fiscal 2025.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: SB 9 (Senator Watson) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Prince George’s County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 29, 2024
km/tso Third Reader - March 19, 2024
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 19, 2024
Enrolled - April 24, 2024
Revised - Amendment(s) - April 24, 2024

Analysis by: Amanda L. Douglas

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510