

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 1198
Economic Matters

(Delegate Amprey)

Finance

**Baltimore City – Alcoholic Beverages – 40th Alcoholic Beverages District –
Revisions**

This bill establishes a Class M-F (Municipal Family Fun Center) alcoholic beverages license in the 40th alcoholic beverages district in Baltimore City and authorizes the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners to issue a license for use at a municipal bowling alley and skating rink located on the odd side of the 1600 block of Pennsylvania Avenue. The annual license fee is \$500. The bill also authorizes the board to issue a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license for a restaurant on the even side of the 400 block of West 29th Street in the 40th alcoholic beverages district if (1) the applicant executes a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Greater Remington Improvement Association and (2) the board waives a minimum seating requirement, as specified. The bill specifies a Class A license issued for a premises on the odd side of the unit block of West Biddle Street must be considered unexpired until July 1, 2025, for the purpose of being renewed. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024, and the provision related to the expiration of a specified license on West Biddle Street terminates July 31, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City revenues increase by at least \$3,000 in FY 2025 due to the issuance of three new Class M-F licenses, and to the extent Class B BWL licenses are issued under the bill, as discussed below. Baltimore City can handle any additional enforcement activity with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall but potential meaningful for a bowling alley or skating rink located at the specified location in the bill.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Class M-F license established by the bill in the 40th Alcoholic Beverages District of Baltimore City may be issued by the board to an individual who (1) is authorized by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City through a management agreement to sell food and beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption, and (2) has executed an MOU with the Upton West Community Association. The licensee is authorized to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption during the hours of sale for alcoholic beverages specified in the bill.

The board must adopt regulations to carry out the bill's provisions, including regulations concerning the holding of events that are closed to the public. The licensee may not participate in or publicize, in or outside of the licensed premises, a pub crawl authorized under the Alcohol and Cannabis Article or allow an open bar to be operated unless the event is closed to the public.

Current Law:

Specified Venue Licenses

In Baltimore City, 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 arenas; marketplaces; municipal golf courses; racetracks; video lottery concessionaires; video lottery facilities; and a zoo. Also, the board is authorized to issue multiple licenses for the same premises, or to an individual, as specified, if the licenses are Class D beer or Class D beer and light wine licenses, and each premises is a bowling establishment that has at least 30 lanes with automatic pinsetters.

Pub Crawl Promoter's Permit

A "pub crawl" means an event during which an organized group of at least three alcoholic beverages license holders with premises within walking distance of each other participate in a coordinated promotion to sell or provide alcoholic beverages during a specified time period and at least 75 individuals are reasonably expected to participate. A pub crawl promoter or a participating license holder on behalf of a promoter must obtain the permit from the board before the pub crawl promoter may publicize, sell tickets for, organize, operate, produce, or stage a pub crawl.

Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor License

A Class B BWL license authorizes the holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor at a hotel or restaurant for on-or off-premises consumption. Annual license fees are \$1,320 for a

licensed premises with a seating capacity of up to 200 and \$1,800 for a licensed premises with a seating capacity of more than 200. A license holder must annually pay an additional \$500 fee to provide live entertainment and/or a \$200 fee to provide outdoor table service.

Local Fiscal Effect: Baltimore City advises that currently there are three bowling alley and skating rink facilities that will apply for the Class M-F license in the 40th alcoholic beverages district. Accordingly, Baltimore City revenues increase by \$3,300 in fiscal 2025 from license fee revenues and \$1,650 annually thereafter. The estimate reflects an initial \$600 application fee, an annual license fee of \$500, and a subsequent \$50 renewal fee for each license.

To the extent the board issues a Class B BWL license under the bill, revenues increase by \$1,920 to \$2,400 at the time of application in fiscal 2025, and \$1,370 to \$1,850 annually thereafter. The estimate reflects an initial \$600 application fee, the annual license fee of \$1,320 or \$1,800, depending upon the seating capacity of the licensed premises, and a subsequent \$50 renewal fee for each license.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: SB 1008 (Senator Hayes) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2024
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