

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1395 (Delegate Brooks, *et al.*)
Economic Matters

**Baltimore County – Alcoholic Beverages – Authorization for Issuing an
Additional Class B License – Repealed**

This bill repeals the authorization for the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners to issue an additional Class B beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license for premises used as a restaurant under specified circumstances and to define “restaurant” by regulation. The bill leaves in place a separate authorization to allow a person to obtain a direct or indirect interest in multiple Class B BWL licenses. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially impact Baltimore County finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Additional Class B License for a Restaurant

Generally, the board may issue an additional Class B (on-sale) BWL license for premises used as a restaurant to the holder of a Class B BWL license. The board may also define “restaurant” by regulation. A restaurant is required to have a minimum capital investment

of \$500,000 for restaurant facilities and a minimum seating capacity of 125 individuals. The capital investment may not include the cost of land or buildings. The board may not issue more than five licenses to or for the use of the same person, and any additional licenses allow the sale of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption only.

Class B Licenses

The board may allow a person to obtain a direct or indirect interest in (1) not more than 12 Class B (on-sale) BWL licenses or, (2) if one of the restaurants is located in the Liberty Road Commercial Revitalization District, not more than 13 Class B (on-sale) BWL licenses. Each restaurant must meet specified requirements.

Background: In fiscal 2017, 781 alcoholic beverages licenses were issued for use in Baltimore County, including 335 Class B BWL licenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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