

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 334

(Senator Colburn)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Talbot County - Alcoholic Beverages - Limited Wineries

This bill authorizes a holder of a Class 4 manufacturer's (limited winery) license in Talbot County to produce wine and pomace brandy at each warehouse for which the holder has been issued an individual storage permit. The license holder, however, is prohibited from serving or selling wine and pomace brandy at a warehouse to the public.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is not expected to materially affect State alcohol tax revenues.

Local Effect: None. The bill authorizes production of wine and pomace brandy outside of a distillery; it does not affect Talbot County license fees or fines.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal increase in revenues for the affected wineries due to increased production.

Analysis

Current Law: Class 4 manufacturer's licenses are issued by the State. There are currently 34 holders of Class 4 manufacturer's licenses in Maryland. A holder of a Class 4 manufacturer's license may sell limited and specified quantities of wine made at the facility to persons of legal drinking age participating in a guided tour of the facility. A licensee may serve, at no charge, no more than six ounces of wine made at the facility to a person who is participating in a guided tour.

A Class A light wine license is issued by the county licensing authority and may be issued to any holder of a Class 4 manufacturer's license. The license authorizes the holder to keep for sale and to sell light wines produced at the winery in any quantity, to any consumer, at retail at the place described in the license.

An individual storage permit only authorizes the permit holder to store alcoholic beverages in a warehouse; it does not currently permit the permit holder to manufacture alcoholic beverages in the warehouse. Title to the alcoholic beverages stored in the warehouse must be vested with the permit holder.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 105 (Delegates Haddaway and Eckardt) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Talbot County, Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2009
ncs/mwc

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