

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1174
Economic Matters

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Finance

Montgomery County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class BD-BWL Licenses - Multiple Licenses
MC 18-25

This bill increases, from one to two, the maximum number of Class BD-BWL licenses a licensee may hold in Montgomery County, as specified. The bill also makes conforming changes. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Montgomery County can handle any additional enforcement activity with existing resources. Montgomery County revenues increase to the extent additional Class BD-BWL licenses are issued under the bill.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In Montgomery County, the Class BD-BWL license authorizes the license holder to sell beer and wine for on- or off-premises consumption, in addition to liquor for on-premises consumption. As a prerequisite for the initial issuance of the license, the owner of the establishment must attest in a sworn statement that food will be available for sale for on-premises consumption during the hours that alcoholic beverages are permitted to be served. The Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners by regulation must specify the type of food that is required to be available for sale for on-premises consumption during the hours that alcoholic beverages are permitted to be served. The holder of a Class BD-BWL license (1) may also hold a Class 7 micro-brewery license

issued for a location in the county but (2) may not hold more than one Class B-BWL license. The annual license fee is \$3,500.

Multiple licenses may be issued for the same premises or to an individual for the use of that individual, a partnership, a corporation, an unincorporated association, or a limited liability company if (1) the licenses are Class H beer and wine licenses and (2) each premises is a restaurant in a bowling establishment that has at least 30 lanes with automatic pinsetters.

Except as otherwise provided under current law, the board may not authorize the same license holder to hold more than 10 licenses. The 10 licenses that may be held by the same license holder may include (1) 1 or more Class H-BW licenses and 1 or more Class B-K licenses and (2) may not include more than 1 Class B-BWL license.

Local Fiscal Effect: Montgomery County revenues increase to the extent additional Class BD-BWL licenses are issued to current license holders, under the bill. The annual license fee for a Class BD-BWL licenses is \$3,500, and Montgomery County advises there are currently 52 Class BD-BWL alcoholic beverages licenses issued in the county as of February 2025. Montgomery County further advises there is an initial application fee of \$600 for each new alcoholic beverages license and a \$100 renewal fee. *For illustrative purposes only*, if each holder of a Class BD-BWL alcoholic beverages license in the county applies for a second license and continues to maintain that second license, Montgomery County revenues increase by \$213,200 in fiscal 2026 and by \$187,200 annually thereafter.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 2025
caw/tso Third Reader - March 19, 2025
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Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

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