

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 443

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Government, Labor, and Elections

Finance

Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class B-SEC (Small Event
Center) License
PG 312-26

This bill establishes, in Prince George’s County, a Class B-SEC (small event center) beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license and authorizes the Prince George’s County Board of License Commissioners to issue the license to a small event center, as specified. The license authorizes the license holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption to individuals attending an event at the event center as described in the license. The board may issue no more than 24 licenses in a license year or allow 3 licenses to apply in each State legislative district in the county at one time. The annual fee for a Class B-SEC license is \$3,500. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George’s County license fee revenues increase by approximately \$10,500 annually, beginning in FY 2027. Prince George’s County expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Potentially meaningful.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A “small event center” is defined as a venue that operates on a per event basis or on a limited schedule and does not maintain standard daily hours of operation.

To be eligible for a Class B-SEC license, a small event center must have: (1) kitchen and dining facilities that can accommodate between 75 and 110 people; (2) a minimum capital investment or appraised value, as specified, of \$350,000 for small event center dining facilities and kitchen equipment; and (3) food available during the hours of operation for an event. The capital investment and appraised value requirements do not include the cost of land, buildings, or leasing.

A Class B-SEC license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor during the hours and days set forth for Class B-BWL license holders in current law.

The board may not issue more than (1) 24 Class B-SEC licenses in a year or (2) 3 licenses to apply in each State legislative district in the county at one time.

Current Law: A Class B-BWL license holder in Prince George’s County is authorized to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption: (1) Monday through Sunday from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the following day; (2) Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the following day; and (3) Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to midnight for off-premises consumption.

Local Revenues: Prince George’s County estimates that approximately three businesses will apply for the new Class B-SEC license. The annual license fee is \$3,500. Therefore, Prince George’s County license fee revenues are estimated to increase by \$10,500 annually, beginning in fiscal 2027.

Small Business Effect: The bill would have a potentially meaningful impact to the extent qualified small businesses apply for, and obtain, a Class B-SEC license created by the bill.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2026
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