

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 443 (Prince George's County Delegation)  
Government, Labor, and Elections

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

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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.**

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**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.

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**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 125 people; (2) a minimum capital investment, excluding the cost of land, buildings, or leasing, of \$500,000 for small event center facilities and kitchen equipment; and (3) food available during the hours of operation for an event.

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.

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### **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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