

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 846

(Senator Carozza)

Finance

Government, Labor, and Elections

**Worcester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Temporary To-Go Event Permit and
Class C Per Diem Municipal To-Go Beer, Wine, and Liquor License**

This bill establishes, in Worcester County, a Class C per diem municipal to-go beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license and a related temporary to-go event permit. The bill authorizes the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners to issue the license to Pocomoke City, the Town of Berlin, and the Town of Snow Hill, and authorizes the license holder to allow beer, wine, and liquor sold by the holder of a temporary to-go event permit to enter a designated special event area described in the license for a period not exceeding seven consecutive days, as specified. The bill also authorizes the board to issue a to-go event permit to the holder of Class B and Class D alcoholic beverages licenses located within or immediately adjacent to a special event area identified in and for use in conjunction with a Class C per diem municipal to-go BWL license. The board must establish regulations for the license and permit, as specified. The fee for the Class C per diem municipal to-go BWL license is \$45 per day, and the fee for the temporary to-go event permit is \$20 per day. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Worcester County revenues increase, beginning in FY 2027, to the extent Class C per diem municipal to-go BWL licenses and temporary to-go event permits are issued. Worcester County can handle the monitoring of any additional licenses or permits issued using existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary:

Class C Per Diem Municipal To-go License

The board must adopt regulations related to the issuance of and requirements for a Class C per diem municipal to-go BWL license, including regulations related to (1) the designation of a special event area; (2) the hours of sale; (3) age verification requirements; (4) the use of specified to-go cups; (5) advertising, posting of notice, and public hearing requirements for the license and any associated temporary to-go event permit; and (6) public safety and event security requirements.

Temporary To-go Event Permit

The temporary to-go event permit authorizes the holder to sell at retail beer, wine, and liquor in approved to-go cups that may be carried outside the licensed establishment.

The board must adopt regulations related to the issuance of and requirements for the permit, including regulations related to (1) the designation of a special event area; (2) the hours of sale; (3) age verification requirements; (4) the use of specified to-go cups; and (5) advertising, posting of notice, and public hearing requirements for the temporary to-go event permit.

Current Law: Generally, the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue alcoholic beverages licenses to retailers that meet specified criteria. Class B licenses authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages for restaurants, and Class D licenses authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages for taverns.

Local Fiscal Effect: Worcester County revenues increase, beginning in fiscal 2027, to the extent the board issues Class C per diem municipal to-go BWL licenses and temporary to-go event permits. The number of per diem municipal to-go BWL licenses that will be issued under the bill is unknown, and any related permits are dependent on where the license is issued and if any Class B or Class D license holders choose to apply for a permit. Therefore, any potential increase in Worcester County license and permit fee revenues under the bill cannot be reliably estimated. Worcester County can handle the bill's requirements with existing resources.

Additional Comments: There are four municipalities in Worcester County: Ocean City, Pocumoke City, the Town of Berlin, and the Town of Snow Hill. The bill does not authorize the board to issue a Class C per diem municipal to-go license to Ocean City.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 1101 (Worcester County Delegation) - Government, Labor, and Elections.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2026
jg/tso Third Reader - March 23, 2026
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 23, 2026

Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

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