

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 897
Finance

(Cecil County Senators)

Cecil County - Alcoholic Beverages - Alteration of License Quota

This bill alters the quota on the number of alcoholic beverages licenses that the Cecil County Board of License Commissioners may issue to apply *only* to Class A alcoholic beverages licenses. The board may not issue, in the aggregate, more than one Class A license for every 1,200 registered voters or major fraction in the county, as determined by the current registration of voters. The bill also specifies that no other class of license may be counted in the computation of the aggregate number of licenses. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect Cecil County finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In Cecil County, the board may not issue more than one license for every 400 registered voters in the county, as determined by the current registration of voters. A Class BLX beer, wine, and liquor restaurant license, Class C club license, motel-restaurant complex license, hotel-restaurant complex license, or Class GC (golf course) beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license may not be counted in the computation of the aggregate number of licenses. The quota must be computed and applied separately for each election district of the county.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 664 (Cecil County Delegation) - Government, Labor, and Elections.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2026
caw/tso

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