

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2015 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 139

(Senator Hershey)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Kent County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class B Wine Shop and Lounge License**

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This bill establishes a Class B wine shop and lounge alcoholic beverages license in Kent County. The annual license fee is \$300. The license authorizes the sale of wine for consumption on or off the licensed premises. The license also authorizes the holder to sell or serve specified food items. The license holder is not subject to any requirement regarding the percentage of receipts derived from the sale of food. An individual younger than the legal drinking age may enter the licensed premises if accompanied by an individual who is of the legal drinking age.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Kent County revenues increase by \$300 for each Class B wine shop and lounge license issued due to annual license fees. Expenditures are not materially affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal overall, but potentially meaningful positive impact for any business that applies for and obtains a Class B wine shop and lounge license.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** In Kent County, a standard Class B on- or off-sale alcoholic beverages license issued by the Board of License Commissioners authorizes the holder to sell

alcoholic beverages (1) on Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following day; (2) on Saturday from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. the following day; and (3) on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 12 midnight (off-sale for beer and wine only).

In Kent County, a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license authorizes the sale of beer, wine, and liquor for consumption on or off the licensed premises. In addition to receiving board approval, the location must have a fully equipped dining room and a kitchen sufficient to prepare and serve meals to the public. The holder's average daily receipts from the sale of food must be at least 60% of the average daily receipts of the business.

**Background:** In fiscal 2014, 33 Class B licenses were in effect for locations in Kent County. Of these, 2 were Class B beer licenses, 8 were Class B beer and wine licenses, and 23 were Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Comptroller's Office, Kent County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 11, 2015  
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