

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 374
Economic Matters

(Delegate Chang, *et al.*)

Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages - Racetrack License

This bill expands the hours of operation and privileges of racetrack alcoholic beverages licenses in Anne Arundel County to include racing establishments offering pari-mutuel betting. The bill also authorizes the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners to issue concessionaire alcoholic beverages licenses to concessionaires operating in conjunction with a licensed racing establishment even if they hold a Class 5 brewery license or a Class 7 micro-brewery license. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

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

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The racetrack license authorizes the sale of beer, wine, and liquor in a location of the licensed racing establishment not covered by a concessionaire license and the playing of music and dancing on the licensed premises. The racetrack license may not be counted as a Class B license or a Class H license in Anne Arundel County and the license holder need not obtain a Sunday license to sell alcoholic beverages on Sunday.

Current Law: The holder of a racetrack alcoholic beverages license in Anne Arundel County may sell alcoholic beverages at one or more locations on the premises of the

racetrack but only from two hours before the running of an authorized race until two hours after the authorized race. The license fee is \$60 per day of live or simulcast racing.

An entertainment concessionaire alcoholic beverages license may be issued to a concessionaire operating in conjunction with an entertainment facility. The license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor on the premises of the concessionaire for consumption anywhere within the entertainment facility in addition to authorizing the playing of music and dancing in the licensed premises. The annual license fee is \$5,000.

Background: Pari-mutuel betting is a betting system where all bets of a particular type are placed together in a pool. This system is generally used in horse and greyhound racing in addition to sporting events of relatively short duration where participants finish in a ranked order.

In fiscal 2018, 582 alcoholic beverages licenses were issued in Anne Arundel County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 309 (Senator Beidle, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel County; Comptroller's Office; Department of Legislative Services

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