

FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 233

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:
114 Y's 2 N's

SPONSOR: Rep. Young

GOVERNOR'S ACTION: Approved

COMPANION BILLS: SB 756

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 233 was passed by the House on April 27, 2011, and subsequently passed the Senate on May 2, 2011. The bill was approved by the Governor on May 31, 2011, chapter 2011-241, Laws of Florida, and took effect on May 31, 2011. The bill authorizes the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (division) in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) to issue a special alcoholic beverage license to the City of Tampa (City), for use within the buildings and adjoining grounds of Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park and Kiley Garden Park.

The bill requires the City to pay the applicable license fee provided in s. 565.02, F.S.

The license authorized by this bill allows the City to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption within the buildings and adjoining grounds of Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park and Kiley Garden Park. In addition, it prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages in sealed containers for consumption outside the buildings and adjoining grounds, but licensees are permitted to remove opened, partially consumed containers of alcoholic beverages from the premises. Further, the bill allows the City to transfer the license to qualified applicants authorized by or under contract with the City to provide food services on the premises.

According to the Economic Impact Statement, the bill may result in additional state revenues in the form of alcoholic beverage taxes from an increase in sales by the license holder. The City may also accrue additional revenue from increased use of the site and its facility.

The division has indicated that the provisions of this bill will result in annual revenues of \$1,820 to the agency. The division has indicated that it can handle issuing a single license to the City within existing resources; however, it states that additional personnel may be necessary depending on the number of times the license is transferred to food service providers and then returned to the City.

The bill appears to provide an exemption to s. 561.17, F.S.

This document does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill sponsor or House of Representatives.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Present Situation

The Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (division) in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) is responsible for regulating the conduct, management and operation of the manufacturing, packaging, distribution, and sale of all alcoholic beverages within the state. Florida's alcoholic beverage law provides for a structured three-tiered distribution system: manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer. The retailer makes the ultimate sale to the consumer. Alcoholic beverage excise taxes are collected at the wholesale level and the state "sales tax" is collected at the retail level.

Chapters 561-568, F.S., comprise Florida's Beverage Law. Section 561.02, F.S., provides that the division is responsible for the enforcement of these statutes. The Beverage Law requires the division to conduct background investigations on potential licensees and requires that licensees meet prescribed standards of moral character. Further, the Beverage Law prohibits certain business practices and relationships. Alcoholic beverage licenses are subject to fines, suspensions and/or revocations for violations of the Beverage Law.

Section 561.17, F.S., requires a business entity or person to be licensed prior to engaging in the business of manufacturing, bottling, distributing, selling, or in any way dealing in the commerce of alcoholic beverages.¹ The sale of alcoholic beverages is generally considered to be a privilege and, as such, licensees are held to a high standard of accountability.²

Unless sold by the package for consumption off the licensed premises, the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages by the drink is limited to the "licensed premises" of a retail establishment over which the licensee has dominion or control. The Beverage Law does not allow a patron to leave an establishment with an open alcoholic beverage and/or enter another licensed premise with an alcoholic beverage.

Section 565.02(1)(b), F.S., provides that a vendor must pay an annual license fee of \$1,820 if it operates a place of business where consumption on the premises is permitted in a county having a population of over 100,000, according to the latest population estimate prepared pursuant to s. 186.901, F.S., for such county.³

No alcoholic beverage license is currently issued to the City of Tampa (City) for use within the buildings and adjoining grounds of Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park and Kiley Garden Park.

Chapter 73-635 did provide for the issuance of an alcoholic beverage licenses for use within the complex known as Curtis Hixon Hall, which was located on this site. Demolition of Curtis Hixon Hall began in 1993, rendering Chapter 73-635 obsolete.

¹ According to s. 561.01(4)(a), F.S., "alcoholic beverages" are defined as distilled spirits and all beverages containing one-half of 1 percent or more alcohol by volume.

² According to s. 561.01(14), F.S., "licensee" is defined as a legal or business entity, person, or persons that hold a license issued by the division and meets the qualifications set forth in s. 561.15, F.S.

³ Section 186.901, F.S., addresses "population census determination."

Effect of the Bill:

Notwithstanding the limitations contained in the Beverage Law, this bill authorizes the division to issue a special alcoholic beverage license to the City for use within the buildings and adjoining grounds of Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park and Kiley Garden Park.

The bill requires the City to pay the applicable license fee provided in s. 565.02, F.S.

The license authorized by this bill allows the City to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption within the buildings and adjoining grounds of Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park and Kiley Garden Park, but not off the premises.

Further, the bill allows the City to transfer the license to qualified applicants authorized by contract with the City to provide food services on the premises. However, upon termination of a transferee's authorization or contract, the license automatically reverts to the City by operation of law.

According to the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida, the 2010 population estimate for Hillsborough County is 1,203,245. Therefore, the license fee of \$1,820 listed in s. 565.02(1)(b), F.S., would apply to the City.

The bill took effect upon becoming a law on May 31, 2011.

II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN? December 18, 2010.

WHERE? The Tampa Tribune, a daily newspaper of general circulation published in Brevard County, Florida.

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes No

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes No

According to the Economic Impact Statement, this bill may result in additional state revenues in the form of alcoholic beverage taxes from an increase in sales by the license holder. In addition, it states that the City may accrue additional revenue from increased use of the site and its facility, resulting in increased financial support for the City's community events and programs.