



**153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL:	SENATE BILL NO. 348
SPONSOR:	Senator Buckson
DESCRIPTION:	AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 4 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO PRIVATE EVENTS.

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor. It is to be implemented the earlier of either six months from enactment or notice by the Delaware Alcoholic Beverage Controller Commissioner (the "Commissioner") that final regulations to implement this Act have been adopted.
2. This Act creates a new private event license for private events at which alcoholic liquors are sold, served, or consumed on licensed premises. The Act authorizes two types of private event licenses: a single event license and a biennial premises license. Further, the Act also permits the Commissioner to grant licenses to caterers and off-site caterers to provide alcoholic liquors at private events without requiring the caterer or off-site caterer to sell food, provided that an adequate selection of food is available at the event.
3. This Act expands upon the regulatory authority and duties of the Office of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commissioner (the "OABCC"). The OABCC anticipates an increase in applications requiring review and verification that an applicant meets the statutory requirements for the applicable license type once implemented. As a result, the OABCC anticipates a need for additional personnel to assist with the review, examination, and processing of applications, and other requirements to comply with the provisions of this Act. The Fiscal Year 2027 costs are estimated at \$87,965, and one-time costs are estimated at \$7,300 and are as follows:
 - a. Recurring Costs – \$87,965
 1. \$85,703 in the Fiscal Year 2027 Personnel Costs (9 months of funding), including OECs at 33.41%, for 1.0 FTE, Regulatory Specialist.
 2. \$2,262 for projected contractual service needs relating to the Department of Technology and Information SEUS (Secure End User Services) costs, the Department of Human Resources eSTAR timekeeping costs, OABCC system licensing fees, and supplies and material needs relating to the establishment of the new position.
 - b. One-Time Costs - \$7,300 for computer and technology equipment, and office furniture startup costs for the new position.
4. The Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement (the "DATE") anticipates increased responsibilities related to the oversight and enforcement of the additional licensed venues, including reviewing event notifications, conducting inspections, monitoring compliance, investigating complaints and violations, and taking administrative enforcement actions involving private event venues and caterers. DATE also expects an increased workload associated with responding to incidents at licensed private events and coordinating with other law enforcement agencies. As a result, the DATE anticipates a need for additional personnel to comply with the provisions of this Act. The Fiscal Year 2027 costs are estimated at \$375,151, and one-time costs are estimated at \$101,136 and are as follows:
 - a. Recurring Costs – \$375,151

1. \$310,303 in the Fiscal Year 2027 Personnel Costs (9 months of funding), including OECs at 33.41%, for 3.0 FTE, Alcohol & Tobacco Police Officer III.
 2. \$4,740 for projected contractual service needs relating to the Department of Technology and Information SEUS (Secure End User Services) costs and the Department of Human Resources eSTAR timekeeping costs, and supplies and material needs relating to the establishment of the new position.
 3. \$60,108 for outfitting costs for the establishment of the new positions, including vehicles, ammunition, body-worn camera subscriptions, and cellular data access.
- b. One-Time Costs - \$101,136
1. \$15,000 for office furniture startup costs for the new position.
 2. \$86,136 for outfitting costs for the establishment of the new positions, including firearms & tasers, uniforms and vests, related gear & equipment, and in-car & handheld radios.
5. All Fiscal Year 2027 personnel costs have been estimated for nine months of funding, with the annualization of the remaining three months incorporated into subsequent year estimates. Additionally, a 2% inflation factor has been included to account for projected increases in salaries, health insurance, and OECs.

Cost:

	<u>Recurring/Operating Costs</u>	<u>One-Time Costs</u>
Fiscal Year 2027:	\$463,116	\$108,436
Fiscal Year 2028:	\$605,712	
Fiscal Year 2029:	\$616,519	

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Office of the Controller General