

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 527

(Senator Colburn)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

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**Dorchester County - Alcoholic Beverages - Hours for Sale and Consumption**

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This bill extends, in Dorchester County, the hours for sale of alcoholic beverages on Monday through Saturday from 1 a.m. to 1:45 a.m. for holders of certain alcoholic beverages licenses. Additionally, it specifies that on-sale consumption of alcoholic beverages must cease at 2 a.m. If Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday, on-sale consumption of alcoholic beverages must cease at 3 a.m. the following Monday. At the time that consumption of alcoholic beverages must end, all tables and bar areas must be cleared of alcoholic beverages.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal increase in revenue from the sale of alcoholic beverages due to the 45-minute closing extension for holders of those licenses affected by the bill.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The time that the sale of alcoholic beverages must end for holders of the following alcoholic beverages licenses would be extended from 1 a.m. to 1:45 a.m. Monday through Saturday:

- Class B (on-sale) beer;
- Class B (on- and off-sale) beer and light wine;
- Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor;
- Class C (on-sale) beer;
- Class C beer and light wine;
- Class C (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor;
- Class D (on-sale) beer;
- Class D beer and light wine; and
- Class 6 pub-brewery.

**Current Law:** The sale of alcoholic beverages Monday through Saturday must end at 1 a.m. the following day. On-sale consumption of alcoholic beverages is allowed to continue for one hour after the sale of alcoholic beverages must cease, at which time all tables and bar areas must be cleared of alcoholic beverages. Unless Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday, the sale of alcoholic beverages must stop at 12 midnight on Sundays. If Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday, however, the sale of alcoholic beverages must stop at 2 a.m. the following Monday.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Dorchester County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 9, 2005  
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