

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 852  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Boteler, *et al.*)

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**Alcoholic Beverages - Licensees and Permit Holders - Age Requirement**

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This bill requires that an individual, acting on his or her own behalf or on behalf of another person or corporation, be at least 21 years old before being issued an alcoholic beverages permit or license. This does not apply to an individual who has been issued an alcoholic beverages license or permit by the effective date of this bill. An individual who is at least 18 but younger than 21 may be issued an alcoholic beverages license for up to 12 months, if: (1) a certificate of permission is sought for the continuation of a business on the death of the license holder; or (2) the individual is a surviving spouse, partner, or senior surviving officer acting for the benefit of a partnership or corporation.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Requiring an individual to be at least 21 years old in order to obtain an alcoholic beverages license or permit would not affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Alcoholic beverages licenses may not be issued to minors, unless ordered by a judge on the recommendation of at least 10 residents of the district where the license will be used. In Allegany, Caroline, Charles, Queen Anne's, and Wicomico counties,

however, the application for an alcoholic beverages license must contain a statement that the applicant is at least 21 years old. In Howard County, the application for an alcoholic beverages license must contain a statement that the applicant is at least 18 years old. Furthermore, to be issued a private bulk sales permit, the individual must be at least 21 years old.

**Background:** The Comptroller's Office advises that it is aware of approximately 50 individuals who have solicitor's permits who are younger than 21. A solicitor's permit grants the holder the privilege of promoting, selling, or offering beer, wine, and distilled spirits to manufacturers, wholesalers, or retailers.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 599 of 2006, an identical bill, received an unfavorable report from the House Economic Matters Committee. In addition, HB 999 of 2005 was amended by the House to be identical to this bill. HB 999 passed the House and was heard by the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, where no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 15, 2007  
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