

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 291  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Otto)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Somerset County - Alcoholic Beverages - Liquor Control Board Reserve Fund**

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This bill increases the maximum amount of the Somerset County Liquor Control Board reserve fund from \$150,000 to \$300,000. The bill also increases the maximum amount the board may distribute from the reserve fund to each dispensary in the county from \$50,000 to \$100,000. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not affect Somerset County operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The board maintains a reserve fund of \$150,000 to provide working capital for its county-run alcohol dispensaries and cover any losses sustained by the board while operating the dispensaries. The board may distribute up to \$50,000 from the reserve fund to each of its dispensaries. Any revenue generated by the dispensaries that exceeds the reserve fund cap is distributed back to the county or specified municipalities within the county.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 335 (Senator Carozza) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Somerset County; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 15, 2019  
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