

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

House Bill 1057  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Arentz, *et al.*)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

**Alcoholic Beverages - Alcohol Awareness Program Certification Requirements -  
Alterations**

---

This bill requires each individual in the State who is employed to sell or serve alcoholic beverages to be certified by an approved alcohol awareness program and makes a series of conforming changes. The bill also requires the holder of a retail alcoholic beverages license to ensure that an individual who is certified in this manner is on the licensed premises during the hours in which alcoholic beverages are sold or served and makes a series of conforming changes. On or after January 1, 2020, an individual hired to sell or serve alcoholic beverages must complete alcohol awareness training within 60 days after he or she is hired. **The bill takes effect January 1, 2020.**

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not directly affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Generally, for a premises that is licensed to sell alcoholic beverages with off-sale privileges, or a premises that is licensed with on-sale privileges and sells alcoholic beverages directly to a customer from a bar or service bar, the license holder or specified employees must complete training in an approved alcohol awareness program in order to obtain and retain their alcoholic beverages license. The training program must be approved and certified by the Comptroller, and it must provide information on how alcohol affects a

person's body and behavior, the dangers of drinking and driving, refusing service before a customer becomes intoxicated, and determining if a customer is old enough to legally consume alcohol. The training is valid for four years.

Many counties require an individual that has taken alcohol awareness training to be present during the hours in which alcoholic beverages are sold but allow exceptions for emergencies, business reasons, or personal reasons. The most common exception allows a business to operate a maximum of two hours without a certified individual present under these circumstances.

**Background:** Montgomery and Wicomico counties advise that alcohol awareness training costs range from between \$50 to \$100 per employee depending on various factors such as the organization hosting the class, the class size, and the location of the class.

**Small Business Effect:** The bill's requirement that all individuals who sell or serve alcoholic beverages obtain alcohol awareness training is likely to increase small business costs to pay for the training of its employees. Depending on how many employees the business has, the total cost could be meaningful.

---

### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Montgomery and Wicomico counties; Maryland Association of Counties; Comptroller's Office; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2019  
mm/tso Third Reader - March 20, 2019  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 20, 2019

---

Analysis by: Richard L. Duncan

Direct Inquiries to:

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510