

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 963

(Harford County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - On-Sale License Record Keeping and Enforcement

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This bill requires alcoholic beverages license holders with on-sale privileges in Harford County to keep specified records at the location designated in the license or another location in the county, and on at least five days' notice, make the records available for inspection by the Harford County Board of License Commissioners or a designee of the board. The bill also alters the penalty provision relating to violations committed by license holders with on-sale privileges such that if charges at a hearing are sustained, the board (1) must impose a fine between \$250 and \$2,000 and (2) may suspend or revoke the license holder's license immediately. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Harford County revenues may increase to the extent revenues from fines under the bill contribute to excess funds submitted to the county. Harford County can handle enforcement activities with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** An alcoholic beverages license holder with an on-sale privilege must (1) keep complete and accurate books of account of daily receipts and expenditures in the form that the board requires and (2) procure vouchers or purchase slips for all alcoholic beverages, food, and other items bought for sale.

An on-sale license holder must keep the required records open to inspection by the board or a designee of the board.

If a required report or an investigation by the board, a board officer, or any other person indicates that a license holder with an on-sale privilege is violating specified alcoholic beverages laws in Harford County, the board must summon the license holder and conduct a hearing. If the charges at the hearing are sustained, the board must revoke the license holder's license immediately.

**Background:** In fiscal 2019, there were 201 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Harford County.

**Small Business Effect:** While violators who are small businesses with on-sale privileges will be subject to a fine of between \$250 and \$2,000, they will also not be subject to mandatory revocation of their license.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 496 (Harford County Senators) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Harford County; Comptroller's Office; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 2020  
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