

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 105  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Impallaria, *et al.*)

---

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - License Fees

---

This bill repeals the annual license fees of specified alcoholic beverages licenses in Harford County and requires the Harford County Board of License Commissioners to determine and implement the annual fees for these licenses in a specified manner. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

---

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Harford County revenues may increase to the extent revenues from license fees under the bill contribute to excess funds submitted to the county.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful.

---

Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The bill repeals the annual license fees for each of the following types of alcoholic beverages licenses issued by the board: (1) wine license; (2) beer and wine license; (3) beer, wine, and liquor license; (4) class MT beer, wine, and liquor license; and (5) stadium license. The board must determine and implement the license fees of each of these licenses in the county and the license fees assessed to each license holder must be in proportion to the amount of sales from alcoholic beverages from January 1 through December 31 of the preceding year, as a percentage of the amount of sales from alcoholic beverages in the county.

**Background:** In fiscal 2019, there were 201 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Harford County, including 30 beer and wine licenses and 164 beer, wine, and liquor licenses.

**Small Business Effect:** The bill changes the current license fees for the majority of alcoholic beverages licenses issued by the board in Harford County. Under the bill, specified license holders will no longer pay a set annual license fee for each license type. Instead, specified license holders will pay a fee determined by the board to be in proportion to the amount of sales from alcoholic beverages from January 1 through December 31 of the preceding year, as a percentage of the amount of sales from alcoholic beverages in the county. License fees for small businesses with proportionately higher levels of annual sales may increase under the bill.

Harford County advises that under the bill, small businesses seeking the same license type will pay different annual fees based on their annual sales. Currently, license holders of the same type of license pay the same annual license fee regardless of annual sales.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 7, 2020  
mr/tso

---

Analysis by: Hillary J. Cleckler

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510