

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 468
Economic Matters

(Delegate Arentz, *et al.*)

Queen Anne's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Underage Employees

This bill clarifies that an individual under the age of 21 may not be employed to act as a bartender in Queen Anne's County. In addition, an individual under the age of 21 who is at least 18 years old and employed to serve alcoholic beverages while acting as a server in a licensed premises other than a premises for which a Class A license is issued is required under the bill to be certified by an approved alcohol awareness program. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect Queen Anne's County finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In Queen Anne's County, an individual under the age of 21 generally may not be employed to sell, deliver, or otherwise deal with alcoholic beverages. However, an individual who is at least 18 years old may be employed to (1) stock alcoholic beverages in a Class A licensed establishment; (2) serve alcoholic beverages while acting as a server on the premises where a Class B (on-sale) license or a Class C (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license is issued; and (3) operate a lottery ticket terminal in a premises where a Class A (off-sale) license is issued.

Generally, for a premises that is licensed to sell alcoholic beverages with an off-sale privilege 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.

Background: In fiscal 2019, there were 91 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Queen Anne's County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Queen Anne's County; Comptroller's Office; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 2020
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Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

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