

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 323
Economic Matters

(Delegate Arentz)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Queen Anne’s County – Alcoholic Beverages – Repeal of Place of Worship
Prohibition

This bill removes the prohibition on the Queen Anne’s County Board of License Commissioners from issuing an alcoholic beverages license to an establishment located within 500 feet of a place of worship. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

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

Small Business Effect: Overall minimal but potential meaningful for establishments that are able to obtain an alcoholic beverages license under the bill.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, the board may not issue alcoholic beverages licenses to establishments located within 500 feet of a place of worship, an elementary or secondary school, a public library, or a youth center sponsored or conducted by a government unit. This prohibition does not apply to the renewal or transfer of a license issued before May 1, 1976, or the issuance of a Class B (on-sale) hotel and restaurant license of any type.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 39 of 2020 passed the House and passed the Senate with amendments, but differences between the two versions were not reconciled prior to the conclusion of the legislative session.

Designated Cross File: SB 855 (Senator Hershey) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2021
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Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

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