

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 218  
Economic Matters

(Howard County Delegation)

Finance

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**Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages - Repeal of Petition of Support Requirement**  
**Ho. Co. 12-23**

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This bill repeals the requirement that alcoholic beverage license applicants in Howard County include a petition of support containing specified information as part of an alcoholic beverages license application. The bill also makes a technical change to preserve the ability of the Howard County Board of License Commissioners to waive the residency requirement for an applicant under certain circumstances in Howard County. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. Howard County can alter the license application process with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** At least one of the applicants for an alcoholic beverages license in Howard County must include with the application a petition of support signed by at least three residents who are owners of real property and registered voters in the district where the business is to be conducted stating that the applicant (1) is known personally to the residents and (2) subject to exemption by the board, is a resident of the county at the time the applicant presents the application to the residents.

The board may waive the residency requirement for an applicant if the applicant (1) is the purchaser of a business already in operation or (2) has owned the premises for which a license is sought for at least two years immediately preceding the filing of the application.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 1307 of 2022.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Howard County; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 15, 2023  
km/tso Third Reader - March 20, 2023

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