

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 656  
Finance

(Anne Arundel County Senators)

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**Anne Arundel County – Board of License Commissioners – Membership**

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This bill increases, from three to five, the number of members of the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners that the Governor must appoint. The bill also increases, from two to four, the maximum number of members of the board that may belong to the same political party. The terms of the two additional members established under the bill must begin May 1, 2025. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Anne Arundel County salary expenditures increase by approximately \$5,400 in FY 2025 and \$32,300 annually thereafter due to the addition of two new board positions under the bill. Anne Arundel County revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Generally, the boards of license commissioners in each county, Baltimore City, and the City of Annapolis are responsible for issuing alcoholic beverage licenses and administering the Alcoholic Beverages Article in their respective jurisdictions.

Under current law, the Governor must appoint three members to the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners and no more than two members of the board may belong to the same political party. Each member of the board must be (1) a resident and voter of the county and (2) an individual of high character and integrity and of recognized business

capacity. The term of a board member is two years. In case of a vacancy, the Governor must appoint an eligible individual to fill the remainder of the term of office of the individual originally appointed. Additionally, the Governor may remove a board member for misconduct in office, incompetence, or willful neglect of duty in a specified manner.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** In Anne Arundel County, the chair of the board must receive an annual salary of up to \$18,000, and other members of the board must receive an annual salary of up to \$15,000. Anne Arundel County estimates that salary and related expenditures increase by approximately \$5,400 in fiscal 2025 and by \$32,300 annually thereafter, due to the addition of two new board positions on May 1, 2025, under the bill. Other operating expenditures are estimated to increase minimally.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 21, 2024  
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