

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1269
Economic Matters

(Baltimore County Delegation)

Finance

Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages - License Applications - Online Notice

This bill clarifies that the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners must publish notice of an application for an alcoholic beverages license two times in two successive weeks in *one* newspaper of general circulation in Baltimore County. Further, the bill authorizes the board to fulfill the notice requirement related to applications for alcoholic beverages licenses by posting notice of an application hearing online at least 14 days prior to the application hearing date instead of publishing the notice in a local newspaper. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore County expenditures decrease by as much as approximately \$40,000 annually beginning FY 2025 from the reduction in costs associated with publishing information in local newspapers. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Before the board may approve an application for a license, the board must publish notice of the application two times in two successive weeks. The notification must be posted in two newspapers of general circulation in Baltimore County or, if only one newspaper of general circulation exists, in that newspaper. The notice must state the name of the applicant, the type of license for which the application is made, the location

described in the application, and the date, time, and place set by the board for a hearing on the application.

In Baltimore County, in addition to the newspaper notice, an inspector for the board must post a suitable notice in a conspicuous place at the location described in the application for at least 10 days before holding a hearing on the application. Such notice must state the class of licenses for which the application is made and the date, time, and location set by the board for an application hearing.

Local Expenditures: Baltimore County advises that, in fiscal 2023, the county spent \$39,557 to publish notice of alcoholic beverage license hearings in accordance with current law. Under the bill, the county is authorized to post the information online, which can likely be accomplished with little to no additional cost. Therefore, Baltimore County expenditures decrease by as much as approximately \$40,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2025 to the extent the county posts alcoholic beverage hearing notices online instead of in local newspapers.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2024
km/tso Third Reader - March 19, 2024
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