

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 37 (Delegate W. Baker)
Judiciary

Referred to Judicial Proceedings

Alcoholic Beverages Offenses - Persons Under Age 21 -
Purchase or Attempted Purchase

This amended bill prohibits a person under the age of 21 from purchasing or attempting to purchase an alcoholic beverage unless the purchase or attempted purchase occurs within the scope of the person's employment with an alcoholic beverages license holder. A law enforcement officer must issue a citation to a child if the officer has probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred. A person under the age of 18 who violates this provision is subject to the procedures and dispositions of the juvenile court. A person over the age of 18 is subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 for a first offense and a fine not exceeding \$1,000 for a repeat offense.

In addition, the bill authorizes a court to order the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to suspend the driver's license of a person under age 21 who violates the bill's provisions. The court may also impose a civil penalty as specified under existing law of a fine not exceeding \$25 for the first violation and, for subsequent violations, a fine not exceeding \$100.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues and expenditures could increase by an indeterminate minimal amount. Transportation Trust Fund revenues could increase by an indeterminate amount.

Local Effect: County expenditures could increase by an indeterminate minimal amount as discussed below. County revenues would not be affected.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: General fund revenues could increase under the bill's monetary penalty provisions for those cases heard in the District Court, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

Transportation Trust Fund revenues could increase due to the potential increase in the number of driver's license suspensions. The MVA charges a \$15 application fee and a \$30 reinstatement fee to activate a suspended license. At this time, the number of suspensions cannot be determined.

State Expenditures: If the number of juvenile dispositions increases due to violations of the bill's provisions, Department of Juvenile Justice expenditures could increase. Although the number of new dispositions cannot be determined beforehand, any expenditure increase would be minimal and could be absorbed with the department's existing resources.

Since the District Court in Montgomery County acts as the juvenile court, general fund expenditures could increase depending upon the additional number of juvenile hearings. Any expenditure increase resulting from the additional caseload would be minimal.

The MVA could handle the suspensions of licenses with existing resources.

Local Expenditures: Since the circuit courts act as the juvenile courts, county expenditures could increase if the number of juvenile hearings increases. At this time, the number of additional hearings and their costs cannot be determined. Any expenditure increase, however, would be minimal.

Information Source(s): Office of the Comptroller, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 1996

ncs Revised - House Third Reader - March 19, 1996

Analysis by: Thomas Himler

Reviewed by: Robert C. Bates

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710