

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1307 (Delegate Montague)  
Economic Matters

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**Alcoholic Beverages - Underage Consumption and Possession**

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This bill increases from \$50 to \$500 the fine imposed on alcoholic beverages licensees or owners of establishments dispensing alcoholic beverages who permit the consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages by persons under 21 years of age on their premises.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Revenues could increase by an indeterminate minimal amount. Expenditures would not be affected.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Revenues:** Since all fines imposed for any violation of Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages must be remitted to the jurisdiction where the offense was committed, county and Baltimore City revenues could increase due to the increase in the applicable fine. The increase would depend upon the number of violations and the fines imposed. This information cannot be determined beforehand, but the revenue increase is assumed to be minimal. For instance, in fiscal 1995 there were 104 criminal cases filed in the District Court charging defendants with having allowed the consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages by persons under 21 years of age on their business premises. Of these cases, approximately 75 of the defendants received a fine. Assuming that the defendants would have paid the maximum fine of \$500 under this bill, county and Baltimore City revenues would increase by \$33,750.

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**Information Source(s):** District Court, Office of the Comptroller, Department of Fiscal

Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 29, 1996

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