

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 532 (Senator Hoffman, *et al.*)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Referred to Economic Matters

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**Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages**  
**(Hours and Days for Sale)**

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This enrolled bill authorizes the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners to petition the circuit court for an order that limits the hours and days for the sale and consumption of beer on a licensee's premises. Currently, these restrictions only apply in a specified area of the city. The court may issue an order if it finds clear and convincing evidence that (1) the activities result in an extreme and continuing disturbance to a residential community; (2) the licensee has failed to exercise good faith in attempting to remedy the disturbance; and (3) the board has been unable to provide relief to the residential community.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. Baltimore City could enforce the restrictions with existing resources. Similarly, the circuit court could issue temporary orders with existing resources. No effect on revenues.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal effect on small businesses as discussed below.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Small Business Effect:** In 1996 the Board of License Commissioners issued 1,494 alcoholic beverages licenses in Baltimore City. Although the number of licensees that are small businesses is unknown, a vast majority would fall into that category. Currently, the board may restrict the hours and days for the sale of alcoholic beverages in a specified area of Baltimore City. To the extent that the circuit court tightens the restrictions on the hours and days for the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the remaining areas of the city, small business licensees in those areas could be impacted. The impact would depend upon

the scope and magnitude of the restrictions.

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**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 1997  
lc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 24, 1997  
Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 6, 1997

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