

Department of Fiscal Services
 Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 933 (Montgomery County Delegation)
 Economic Matters Referred to Economic and Environmental Affairs

Montgomery County - Alcoholic Beverages - Dispensaries and Retail Outlets
MC 715-97

This amended bill prohibits the Director of the Department of Liquor Control in Montgomery County from contracting with an individual to operate a retail outlet for the sale of alcoholic beverages unless (1) the Board of License Commissioners determines that the individual is fit to operate the retail outlet; and (2) the Director had a contract with an individual to operate the retail outlet on January 1, 1997. Retail dispensary stores and retail outlets operated under contract may only sell certain items. These items are nonchilled beer, wine, liquor, ice, and bottled water. The bill also prohibits the Director from selling alcoholic beverages at different prices to different licensees or classes of licensees. An employee of a county liquor dispensary or an employee of a retail outlet under contract with the county is subject to civil penalties for violations of the laws relating to the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal general fund revenue increase due to civil penalties.

Local Effect: Currently, there are four retail outlets in Montgomery County that are privately operated. The bill prohibits the Director of the Department of Liquor Control from contracting out additional stores. Thus, county finances would not be directly affected; the county would continue with its existing contracts. Revenues could also increase by a minimal amount due to civil penalties and fines.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. The four retail outlets with contracts would continue with their operations. To the extent that the bill prohibits contracts for additional stores, the existing retail outlet would benefit from this limit on future competition.

Information Source(s): Montgomery County, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 1997

lc Revised - House Third Reader - April 7, 1997

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