

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 348 (Delegate Walkup)
Economic Matters

Kent County - Alcoholic Beverages (Background Checks)

This bill requires the Kent County Board of License Commissioners to obtain fingerprints and criminal background checks of new alcoholic beverages license applicants. The county may impose a fee to cover the costs of such activities.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any expenditure increase due to criminal background checks would be offset by the fees collected for performing the background checks.

Local Effect: None. Any costs for background checks would be passed on to new license applicants.

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

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: The Kent County Board of License Commissioners issued 72 licenses in 1996, an increase of 11 licenses over 1995. The number of new applicants varies by year; however, it is usually less than ten per year. Although the number of licensees that are small businesses is unknown, the vast majority would fall into that category. The bill requires the board to obtain fingerprints and criminal background checks on all new applicants for alcoholic beverages licenses. It is expected that the applicant would pay these costs. As a result, new small business applicants would experience a minimal (\$42) increase in costs for the State criminal background check (\$18) and the national criminal check (\$24).

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 1997

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