

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 259 (Howard County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Referred to Economic & Environmental Affairs

Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages (Alcohol Awareness)
Ho. Co. 5-97

This enrolled bill provides that in Howard County an alcoholic beverages licensee or a supervisory employee designated by the licensee must be certified by an approved alcohol awareness program, and be present when alcohol is sold. However, the certified employee may be absent for bona fide business or personal reasons or an emergency, if the absence does not exceed two hours. The licensee must keep a log book on such absences.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Requiring alcoholic beverages licensees or their employees be certified would not directly affect Howard County finances.

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

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: In 1996 the Howard County Board of License Commissioners issued 170 licenses. While the number of such licensees that are small businesses (50 or fewer employees) is unknown, a vast majority fall into that category. Under the bill, a licensee must have an employee on the premises when alcohol may be sold that is certified by an approved alcohol awareness program. To the extent that they do not already provide alcohol awareness training, small businesses could experience an increase in costs. The magnitude of the increase will depend upon the type of alcohol awareness program and the number of employees in the program. Small businesses could maintain a log book on employee absences with existing resources.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 1997

ncs Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 30, 1997

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