

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 1359 (Delegate W. Baker)  
Judiciary

Referred to Judicial Proceedings

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Alcoholic Beverages Offenses - Persons Under Age 21 -  
Purchase or Attempted Purchase

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This amended bill prohibits a person under the age of 21 from purchasing or attempting to purchase an alcoholic beverage unless the purchase or attempted purchase occurs within the scope of the person's employment with an alcoholic beverages license holder. A law enforcement officer must issue a citation to a child if the officer has probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred. A person under the age of 18 who violates this provision is subject to the procedures and dispositions of the juvenile court. A person over the age of 18 is subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 for a first offense and a fine not exceeding \$1,000 for a repeat offense.

In addition, the bill authorizes a court to order the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to suspend the driver's license of a person under age 21 who violates the bill's provisions. The court may also impose a civil penalty as specified under existing law of a fine not exceeding \$25 for the first violation and, for subsequent violations, a fine not exceeding \$100.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund revenues and expenditures could increase by an indeterminate minimal amount. Transportation Trust Fund revenues could increase by an indeterminate amount.

**Local Effect:** County expenditures could increase by an indeterminate minimal amount as discussed below. County revenues would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None. The bill would not directly affect small businesses.

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Fiscal Analysis

**State Revenues:** General fund revenues could increase under the bill's monetary penalty provisions for those cases heard in the District Court, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

Transportation Trust Fund revenues could increase due to the potential increase in the number of driver's license suspensions. The MVA charges a \$10 fee to activate a suspended license. At this time, the number of suspensions cannot be determined.

**State Expenditures:** The Department of Juvenile Justice did not respond to a request for information. If the number of juvenile dispositions increases due to violations of the bill's provisions, Department of Juvenile Justice expenditures could increase. Although the number of new dispositions cannot be determined beforehand, it is assumed that any expenditure increase would be minimal and could be absorbed within the department's existing resources.

Since the District Court in Montgomery County acts as the juvenile court, general fund expenditures could increase depending upon the additional number of juvenile hearings. Any expenditure increase resulting from the additional caseload would be minimal. It is expected that existing judicial personnel could handle the additional number of cases.

The MVA could handle the suspensions of licenses with existing resources.

**Local Expenditures:** Since the circuit courts act as the juvenile courts, county expenditures could increase if the number of juvenile hearings increases. At this time, the number of additional hearings and their costs cannot be determined. Any expenditure increase, however, would be minimal.

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**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 14, 1997  
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