

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 139 (Senator Sfikas)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages
(Board of License Commissioners)

This bill prohibits a commissioner or employee of the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners from soliciting or receiving political contributions from an alcoholic beverages licensee or their agent or employee. A licensee or their agent may not make a political contribution to a commissioner or an employee of the board. Violators are subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not exceeding two years. The bill also authorizes the board's executive secretary to supervise the activities and investigations of the inspectors and other employees. In addition, the bill requires that the board's employees be in the city's classified civil service, and be subject to appointment and removal only in accordance with the laws governing classified civil service employees.

By January 30 of each year, the board must submit a report to the Governor concerning its operations for the prior calendar year.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal general fund revenue and expenditure increase due to the applicable penalties.

Local Effect: Potential minimal revenue increase for Baltimore City due to the applicable monetary penalties. Indeterminate effect on the city's expenditures.

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

Fiscal Analysis

Local Expenditures: Adding the board's employees to the classified civil service of Baltimore City could affect future labor costs for such employees. The magnitude and direction of any impact on personnel costs cannot be reliably estimated at this time, but is assumed to be minimal. The board could submit the report to the Governor with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: In 1996 the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners issued 751 alcoholic beverages licenses. The number of such licensees that are small businesses is unknown. Under the bill, a licensee (or their agent) is prohibited from making a political contribution to a board member or the board's employees. As a result, small businesses that violate this provision could experience an increase in costs due to the imposition of fines. Although the number of such instances cannot be determined, it is expected to be small.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 29, 1997
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