

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1332 Charles County Delegation
Economic Matters

Charles County - Alcoholic Beverages - Sales to Underage Persons

This bill authorizes the Charles County Board of License Commissioners to impose a fine of up to \$50 on an employee of a retail alcoholic beverages licensee if the employee sells alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 years of age.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Charles County revenues could increase by up to \$50 for each fine imposed.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In Charles County, if an alcoholic beverages licensee or the employee of the licensee sells alcoholic beverages to a person under the age of 21, the Board of License Commissioners may impose a fine of up to \$500 or suspend the license for up to three days or both. For subsequent offenses, the Board of License Commissioners may impose a penalty that it determines. A licensee or a licensee's employee who sells to someone under 21 is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, is subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to two years or both. Law enforcement officers may issue citations to individuals who furnish alcoholic beverages to someone under 21 years of age. The citations may impose fines of up to \$500 for a first offense or up to \$1,000 for a subsequent offense.

Local Revenues: In a recent field test, Charles County discovered no less than 60 licensed retailers where alcoholic beverages were being provided for individuals under 21 years of age, often by younger employees working at the retailers. The Board of License Commissioners expects to issue up 40 citations in the first year, with some decrease due to

deterrence in future years. If 40 citations are issued in fiscal 2001, county revenues could increase by up to \$2,000.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Charles County, Department of Legislative Services

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