

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 95 (Chairman, Economic Matters Committee)
(Departmental - Comptroller)
Economic Matters

Comptroller - Issuance of Cigarette Licenses

This departmental bill requires the Comptroller, prior to the issuance or renewal of any cigarette license, to conduct an investigation with regard to the applicant, the business to be operated, and the facts provided in the application. The bill also increases the circumstances under which the Comptroller may deny a license to an applicant, reprimand a licensee, or suspend or revoke a license to include: (1) a felony conviction; (2) a misdemeanor conviction that is directly related to the fitness and qualification of the applicant or licensee; or (3) nonpayment of taxes. Finally, the bill provides that the Comptroller may grant a waiver from these restrictions to current licensees who have been convicted of a crime prior to the effective date of the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any additional costs associated with the implementation of the bill would be minimal and able to be handled with the existing resources of the Comptroller's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit. Revenues from cigarette licenses would not be materially affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Comptroller of the Treasury, Alcohol and Tobacco Unit has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Analysis

Current Law: The Comptroller is required to issue a cigarette license to applicants who meet the requirements provided in Sections 16-203 and 204 of the Business Regulation Article, which include establishing a place of business, providing the required information on each application, and paying the appropriate fee for each license.

Background: Under current law, the Comptroller does not have the authority to investigate applications for cigarette licenses. The bill would allow the Comptroller to investigate applicants for cigarette licenses in an effort to prevent licenses from being issued to applicants who meet the requirements of current law, but who are otherwise unfit to receive a license based on previous history of false information provided in the application. The language of the bill is similar to the language in Article 2B that deals with the issuance of statewide alcoholic beverage licenses by the Comptroller.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Comptroller of the Treasury (Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit),
Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 24, 2000
cm/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 21, 2000

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