

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1345 (Anne Arundel County Delegation)
Economic Matters

Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages - Bottle Clubs

This bill prohibits the establishment of “bottle clubs” in Anne Arundel County and provides for penalties if a bottle club is formed in an attempt to evade the alcoholic beverages regulations in the county. A bottle club is defined as a restaurant, hotel, club, room, dance studio, disco, place of public entertainment, or other place open to the public that is subject to a State or county license and that sells or otherwise provides alcoholic beverages or allows patrons to bring alcoholic beverages to the property. A bottle club does not include an establishment for which an alcoholic beverages license has been issued. The owner or operator of a bottle club who evades county alcoholic beverages laws or who provides alcoholic beverages or component parts of mixed alcoholic beverages is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of up to \$10,000 or imprisonment for two years, or both.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The criminal penalty provisions of this bill are not expected to significantly affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners and the local law enforcement units could enforce bottle club laws with existing resources. The criminal penalty provisions of this bill are not expected to significantly affect local finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In Anne Arundel County, a person who keeps for sale or sells alcoholic beverages and the premises on which alcoholic beverages are kept for sale or sold must be licensed by the county Board of License Commissioners. There is no provision governing a county establishment that allows a patron to bring alcoholic beverages on unlicensed premises for personal consumption. Baltimore City as well as Baltimore, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, and St. Mary's counties have laws that address bottle clubs and provide for specific penalties for the operators of illegal bottle clubs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2000
drg/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 28, 2000

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