

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 1286 (Delegate Conwav. *et al.*)

Economic Matters

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Wicomico County - Liquor Dispensaries - Products

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This bill authorizes Wicomico County liquor dispensaries to sell chilled beer, nonchilled beer, wine, liquor, ice, and bottled water.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Wicomico County Liquor Control Board expenditures and revenues would increase due to beer purchases and sales. The revenues are expected to be greater than the expenditures.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Wicomico County liquor dispensaries are authorized to sell sparkling and fortified wines and any other alcoholic beverage with more than 14% alcohol by volume. In practice, the Wicomico County dispensaries sell all items in the bill except for beer. Only in Montgomery County are county-run dispensaries authorized to sell beer, and they cannot sell chilled beer. Licensed retail alcoholic beverages distributors in Wicomico County sell beer and wine only.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The Wicomico County Liquor Control Board has two liquor dispensaries, both located in Salisbury. As a convenience to their customers, the board wants to be able to sell beer in addition to wine and liquor. At this time, the profits generated by the sale of beer cannot be reliably projected.

**Small Business Effect:** Small business beer and wine retail distributors in Salisbury could

suffer due to competition from the county-run dispensaries. The effect is expected to be minimal.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 2, 2000  
drg/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 24, 2000

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