

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 568 (Charles County Delegation)

Economic Matters

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**Charles County - Alcoholic Beverages - Administrative Proceedings**

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This bill provides that in Charles County the granting of probation before judgement to a licensee or an employee of the licensee for providing alcohol to someone under 21 or to someone visibly under the influence of alcohol does not bar the Board of License Commissioners of Charles County from proceeding against the licensee.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Charles County revenues could increase minimally due to the collection of fines imposed at additional Board of License Commissioners hearings. Any additional proceedings could be supported with the existing resources of the board.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** If a licensee or an employee of the licensee is given probation before judgement for supplying alcohol to someone under 21 or visibly intoxicated, the Board of License Commissioners is barred from proceeding against the licensee for the alleged infraction. Currently, Dorchester, Garrett, Howard, Kent, Montgomery and St. Mary's counties have the authority granted to Charles County by this bill.

**Local Revenues:** Charles County estimates that several additional violation hearings would occur each year as a result of the bill. The maximum fine that the Board of License Commissioners of Charles County can impose is \$1,000 per violation. Charles County advises that total fine revenues could increase by approximately \$2,500 to \$5,000.

**Small Business Effect:** A small business licensee or the employee of a small business licensee who is given probation before judgement could still be subjected to a hearing by the Board of License Commissioners of Charles County. If the board determines that a penalty is necessary, the business could have its license suspended or revoked.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 2, 2000  
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