

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 469 (Delegate Barklev. *et al.*)

Judiciary

Alcoholic Beverages - Underage Violations - Misdemeanors

This bill provides that the commission of an underage alcoholic beverage violation is a misdemeanor.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by approximately \$30,000 in FY 2001 for changes in District Court forms and systems.

Local Effect: The bill would not significantly impact local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Commission of an underage alcoholic beverage violation is a code violation and a civil offense. Underage alcoholic beverage violations include:

- misrepresentation of age to obtain alcoholic beverages from a licensed seller;
- possession of alcoholic beverages by a person under age 21;
- use of a false identification card or document to obtain alcoholic beverages;
- obtaining alcoholic beverages for consumption by a person under age 21;
- furnishing alcoholic beverages for consumption to a person known to be under age 21; and
- possessing an unregistered keg or tampering with a keg registration form.

A violator is subject to a maximum fine of \$500 for a first offense and \$1,000 for a repeat

offense. A violator is also subject to a driver's license suspension, and must pay court costs of \$5.

Background: The bill does not change the penalties applicable to underage alcoholic beverage violations, but allows the court to impose court costs of more than \$5.

State Fiscal Effect: The bill is not expected to materially change the District Court's caseload or fine revenue. The bill could result in an increase in court cost revenues for the District Court, however. In fiscal 1999, there were 2,291 citations for underage alcoholic beverage violations. Because the bill does not specify the amount of court costs that may be ordered, the precise increase in court cost revenue cannot be reliably predicted.

The District Court advises that the bill would require alteration of computer systems, cash registers, and court forms, and the development of a new citation to be distributed to law enforcement officers, at a cost of approximately \$30,000.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (District Court of Maryland), Department of State Police, Comptroller of the Treasury (Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division), Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Claire E. Rooney

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510