

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 129 (Senator Della)  
Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Notice of License Renewal Hearing**

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This bill specifies that the Board of Liquor License Commissioners of Baltimore City need not give public notice before conducting a hearing on a license renewal application against which a protest has been filed.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill codifies existing practice in Baltimore City.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** All holders of alcoholic beverage licenses must file a renewal application annually. A group of ten or more residents or real estate owners in the vicinity of the licensed premises or the board of license commissioners may file a protest against the renewal of a license. If a protest is filed, the board conducts a hearing where a decision is made based on the complaints filed about the establishment. Although it is not the current practice, public notice of hearings to address complaints is required.

**Background:** A recent Charles County Board of License Commissioners decision was reversed on the grounds that no public notice of the hearing was provided. Baltimore City would like to avoid the costly and time-consuming procedure of providing public notice without the possibility of a decision being reversed due to lack of notice. Baltimore City advises that protests are filed against approximately seven to 20 licensees per year.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 1, 2000  
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