

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 441 (Harford County Senators)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

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**Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Powers of Inspectors**

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This bill authorizes alcoholic beverages inspectors in Harford County to issue civil citations for alcoholic beverages violations relating to the misrepresentation of one's age to obtain alcoholic beverages.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund revenue due to additional fines collected from individuals found guilty of underage alcoholic beverages violations.

**Local Effect:** Authorizing inspectors in Harford County to issue civil citations for alcoholic beverages violations would not directly affect Harford County finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Alcoholic beverages inspectors in Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties have the power to issue civil citations for alcoholic beverages violations. Alcoholic beverages inspectors: (1) must have successfully completed a program of training in the proper use of arrest authority and pertinent police procedure; and (2) may not carry firearms in the performance of their duties.

Anyone under the age of 21 is prohibited from obtaining alcoholic beverages. In addition, it is illegal for an individual to misrepresent the individual's age in the purchase of alcoholic beverages or knowingly furnish alcoholic beverages to someone under the

age of 21. Individuals under 18 years of age who violate this law are issued a citation and the offense is usually adjudicated in juvenile court. Individuals over the age of 18 who violate this law receive a citation and are fined a maximum of \$500 for the first offense and a maximum of \$1,000 for repeat offenses. Fines for these violations are collected in District Court.

**Background:** According to the Administrative Office of the Courts, statewide there were 2,291 underage alcoholic beverages violations in fiscal 1999. The vast majority of alcoholic beverages violations (for persons at least 18 years old) are adjudicated in the District Court.

**State Revenues:** Assuming Harford County liquor inspectors issue more citations for underage alcoholic beverages violations, State general fund revenues could increase due to increased fines collected in the District Court for individuals at least 18 years of age found guilty of violations involving the misrepresentation of one's age in the purchase of alcoholic beverages. Any additional fine revenue is assumed to be minimal.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 213 (Harford County Delegation) – Economic Matters.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – February 28, 2001  
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