

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 361 (Senator Della)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Underage Persons on Licensed Premises

This bill prohibits a holder of any alcoholic beverages license in Baltimore City from allowing anyone under the age of 21 years to be on the premises after midnight unless: (1) the person is an employee of the license holder; (2) in a Class B licensed restaurant or hotel equipped with a bar where alcoholic beverages are served, the person is seated away from the bar; or (3) the person is attending a contest between professional sports teams. A person who violates this provision is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for a first violation and a civil penalty of not more than \$3,000 or license suspension or both for a subsequent violation.

The bill is effective July 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City revenues could increase minimally due to the bill's penalty provisions. Enforcement of the bill's provisions could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In Baltimore City there are no age restrictions in current law for restricting the presence of underage persons on licensed premises. Other jurisdictions

restrict the presence of minors in their local regulations; for example, Baltimore County prohibits minors on Class D licensed premises after 9 p.m., permits minors on Class B and Class C licensed premises after 9 p.m. only if seated at a table away from the bar, and permits minors at private parties in an area closed from the public where alcoholic beverages are sold.

Background: According to the Comptroller's fiscal 2001 Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Annual Report there are 1,126 Class B, Class C, and Class D licensed alcoholic beverages premises in Baltimore City. Class A licensed premises must close by midnight.

Local Fiscal Effect: License inspectors and the Baltimore City Police would be responsible for enforcing the bill's provisions, which could be done with existing resources. Baltimore City revenues could increase due to the bill's civil penalty provision. Any increase is expected to be minimal.

Small Business Effect: Baltimore City advises that the licensees most affected by the bill would be entertainment venues that hold all-ages events yet sell and serve alcoholic beverages to persons at least 21 years of age.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 14, 2002
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