

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 716  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Harrison)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

**Alcoholic Beverages - Protest Against License Renewal - Commercial Tenants**

---

This bill authorizes commercial tenants who are not holders of an alcoholic beverages license or applicants for any alcoholic beverages license to sign a petition of protest to a local board of license commissioners against the renewal of an alcoholic beverages license.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. Granting commercial tenants who are not alcoholic beverages licensees or alcoholic beverages license applicants the authority to sign a petition of protest to the issuance or renewal of an alcoholic beverages license would not affect any local jurisdiction's finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Residents or real estate owners are authorized to sign a petition of protest to the renewal of an alcoholic beverages license. A license subject to renewal may not be approved without a hearing before an official authorized to approve the license if a protest has been filed against the granting of the new license at least 30 days before the expiration of the license for which the renewal is sought.

**Background:** Local boards of license commissioners may choose to hear testimony from businesses wishing to protest the renewal of an alcoholic beverages license, but licensing boards are not required to consider such testimony when taking action on a renewal of a license.

**Small Business Effect:** To the extent that preventing the renewal of an alcoholic beverages license to a current alcoholic beverages licensee decreases additional foot traffic, small businesses could be negatively impacted. Additionally, preventing the renewal of an alcoholic beverages license could benefit small businesses due to a decrease in competition.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Washington County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Kent County, Worcester County, Comptroller's Office (Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2002  
ncs/hlb

---

Analysis by: Christopher J. Kelter

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