

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 458
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages Violations - Maximum Fine
PG 302-03

This bill increases, from \$5,000 to \$12,500, the maximum fine that may be imposed by the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners on licensees for any violation of alcoholic beverages law in Prince George's County.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County revenues could increase by approximately \$52,500 if the number of cases involving fines does not change and fines levied against alcoholic beverages licensees are increased by an average of \$3,750 per violation. County expenditures would not increase.

Small Business Effect: Small business owners who are alcoholic beverages licensees could be negatively affected by the imposition of higher fines. However, any impact is expected to be minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In Prince George's County the Board of License Commissioners may impose a fine of not more than \$5,000 in lieu of or in addition to suspension or revocation of a license for any violation that is cause for suspension or revocation under the alcoholic beverage laws affecting Prince George's County.

There is no uniformity among the local jurisdictions as to the types of penalties and the amounts of fines that a local licensing board may impose. Most local licensing boards may impose a maximum fine of between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

Background: Prince George's County advises that there were 14 cases involving fines in calendar 2001 and that fines ranged from \$100 to the \$5,000 maximum allowed by law. Prince George's County also advised that fines may vary depending on the nature and severity of the violation.

Local Fiscal Effect: For illustrative purposes, assuming the number of cases involving the issuance of a fine does not change and that fines are increased by an average of \$3,750 per violation, annual Prince George's County revenues could increase by approximately \$52,500. However, any actual change in revenues cannot be precisely estimated at this time.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2003
ncs/hlb

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