

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 179

(Frederick County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs

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**Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Board of License Commissioners**

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This bill decreases the salary of the chairperson of the Board of License Commissioners in Frederick County from \$10,000 to \$7,000 and increases the salaries of the other board members from \$5,000 to \$6,500. The bill also authorizes the Board of License Commissioners of Frederick County to subpoena any records or papers pertaining to a licensed business or establishment.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Frederick County expenditures would not change due to the restructuring of board salaries. Aggregate expenditures for salaries for the three members of the Board of License Commissioners will remain at \$20,000 annually. Authorizing the Board of License Commissioners of Frederick County to subpoena records or papers would not directly affect county finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** There are three members of the Board of License Commissioners, all of whom are appointed by the Governor. Board members serve five-year staggered terms. The current salary of the chairperson of the Board of License Commissioners of

Frederick County is \$10,000 and the other two board members receive salaries of \$5,000. All board members are reimbursed for their expenses.

The Board of License Commissioners of Frederick County are not authorized to subpoena records or papers pertaining to a licensed business or establishment. Boards of license commissioners in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard, Prince George's, Wicomico, and Worcester counties have the authority to subpoena any records or papers pertaining to a licensed business or establishment.

**Background:** There is no uniformity to the structure and salaries of the persons responsible for regulating alcoholic beverages in different counties. For those counties that have a Board of License Commissioners and pay an annual salary, the salaries vary significantly. For example, in Caroline County the chair receives \$1,750 and the members receive \$1,500 annually, while in Prince George's County the chair receives \$18,000 and the members receive \$17,000 annually. Queen Anne's and Howard counties compensate members on a per meeting basis. Other counties, such as Garrett County, do not have a separate Board of License Commissioners, but utilize the Board of County Commissioners for alcoholic beverage licensing. In St. Mary's County the salaries of the license commissioners are set by the county commissioners. In Allegany County the salaries of the license commissioners are set by the county commissioners based on the recommendations of the Allegany County Salary Study Commission.

The salaries of the members of the Board of License Commissioners of Frederick County were last changed in 1990 (Chapter 79 of 1989) when the chairman's salary was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and the other members' salary was increased from \$3,600 to \$5,000.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

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

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