

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 549

(Washington County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Washington County Board of License Commissioners - Issuing Licenses -
Restrictions**

This bill prohibits the Washington County Board of License Commissioners from issuing an alcoholic beverages license to any licensee or applicant until all outstanding gaming proceeds, payments, and fines have been paid or judicially satisfied. The bill does not affect the issuance of special or temporary licenses, a certificate of permission, or renewal licenses issued to a personal representative.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Minimal decrease in Washington County expenditures.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In Washington County, except for a special or temporary license or a certificate of permission or renewal license issued to a personal representative, the Board of License Commissioners may not issue a license to sell alcoholic beverages for any premises that previously have been licensed for alcoholic beverages until all outstanding county taxes owed by the licensee for the operation of the business under a previous license have been paid or judicially satisfied.

The Washington County Gaming Commission may recommend to the Washington County Board of License Commissioners that an alcoholic beverages license be

suspended for a minimum of 15 days for a second or subsequent violation of tip jar gaming law including circumstances when an alcoholic beverages licensee has outstanding gaming proceeds, payments, or fines. The board, however, is not required to honor the commission's request.

Local Fiscal Effect: The Washington County Gaming Commission advises that outstanding proceeds, payments, and fines owed by gaming permit holders average about \$6,000 each year and expenditures to collect the outstanding gaming monies exceed the amount of outstanding gaming monies. The commission further advises that many gaming permit holders also hold an alcoholic beverages license. Accordingly, prohibiting the issuance of an alcoholic beverages license to gaming permit holders until all outstanding gaming monies are paid would result in more timely payment to the commission. Additionally, Washington County expenditures could decrease as a result of avoided collection costs for outstanding gaming monies. Any impact cannot be reliably estimated at this time, but avoided costs are assumed to be greater than the actual amount of outstanding gaming monies owed to the commission.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2004
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Analysis by: Christopher J. Kelter

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510