

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 441
Economic Matters

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Montgomery County - Alcoholic Beverages - Licensed Premises Near Public
Libraries
MC 507-05

This bill repeals the prohibition in Montgomery County against the issuance of an alcoholic beverages license to an establishment within 750 feet of a public library.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Minimal increase in license fee revenues. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but potential meaningful for businesses near a public library.

Analysis

Current Law: Current law generally prohibits the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners from issuing alcoholic beverages licenses to businesses within 750 feet of a secondary or elementary school, church, place of worship, public library, or a government-sponsored or operated youth center. With unanimous approval of the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners, however, an alcoholic beverages license may be issued to businesses within 300 feet of a secondary or elementary school,

church, place of worship, public library, or government-sponsored or operated youth center.

Background: In most counties there are restrictions on the issuance of alcoholic beverages licenses within a certain distance of a church, place of worship, or a school. However, in only three counties – Montgomery, Queen Anne’s, and Somerset – is there a restriction on the issuance of an alcoholic beverages license to an establishment within a certain distance of a public library.

There are currently 22 branch locations of the Montgomery County Public Library.

Local Fiscal Effect: It is difficult to predict the precise amount by which liquor license fee revenues would increase as a result of this bill. Any impact would depend on the type and number of license issued as a result of this authority. In any case, it is assumed that this amount would be minimal. Monitoring of the new licenses could be handled with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2005
n/hlb

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