

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 581
Economic Matters

(Delegate Walkup, *et al.*)

Finance

Kent County - Alcoholic Beverages - Fines

This bill increases the maximum fine that may be imposed by the Kent County Board of License Commissioners for a violation of any provision of the alcoholic beverage laws that pertain to the county. For the first offense, the maximum fine increases from \$500 to \$1,000; for the second offense, the maximum fine increases from \$1,000 to \$2,000; and for the third or subsequent offense, the fine increases from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Any revenue resulting from increased monetary penalties depends on the number of first, second, and third-time violators. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal increase in fines for alcoholic beverage law violators.

Analysis

Current Law: The Kent County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to impose penalties on alcoholic beverage licensees who violate alcoholic beverage laws that pertain to the county. For the first offense, the board may suspend the alcoholic beverage license, close the place of business for up to 15 days, and impose a fine of up to \$500. For a second offense, the board may suspend the alcoholic beverage license, close the place of business for up to 30 days, and impose a fine of up to \$1,000. For a third or

subsequent offense, the board may suspend the alcoholic beverage license, close the place of business for up to 90 days, and impose a fine of up to \$2,000. For a third offense that is the same as either of the previous two offenses, the board may revoke the alcoholic beverage license, prohibit the licensure of the violator, and prohibit the licensure of the premises for a period of up to one year.

Background: Kent County advises that in 2004 the board of license commissioners reported 13 alcoholic beverage law violators. Of these, 10 were first-time offenders, two were second-time offenders, and one was a third-time offender.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 805 (Senator Pipkin) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2005
n/ljm

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