

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 404

(Senator Hafer)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Garrett County - Alcoholic Beverages - Disposition of Fines

This bill removes Garrett County from the list of jurisdictions in which 50% of fines imposed by and recognizances forfeited to each circuit court for alcoholic beverages violations, go to the circuit court to augment the court library, and 5% go to the clerk of the circuit court as a commission.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill would not materially impact Garrett County finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Garret, Kent, Somerset, Talbot, and Wicomico counties, half of the fines imposed must go to augment the circuit court law library, and 5% goes to the clerk of the circuit court as a commission. In other counties, fines imposed or recognizances forfeited for any violation of the alcoholic beverages laws are payable directly to the county in which the offense was committed.

Local Fiscal Effect: This bill would require that all fines imposed go directly to the county. The precise fiscal impact of this bill on Garrett County finances cannot be reliably quantified at this time, as it would depend on the total amount of fines imposed on alcoholic beverages laws violators; however, it is assumed that Garrett County fine

revenues would increase minimally. Garrett County advises that, in fiscal 2004, it imposed \$700 in fines on violators of alcoholic beverages laws, \$350 of which was remitted to the circuit court library and \$35 of which was remitted to the clerk of the circuit court as commission. Assuming the county collects the same amount in fiscal 2005, county revenues would increase by \$385.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Garrett County, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 2005
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