

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 874 (Senator Astle)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Penalties

This bill increases the maximum penalty that the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners may impose on an alcoholic beverages licensee who violates the alcoholic beverage laws that pertain to Anne Arundel County, from \$1,000 to \$2,500. It also authorizes the board to suspend or revoke an alcoholic beverages license in conjunction with imposing the fine, rather than only in lieu of the fine.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential increase in Anne Arundel County revenues as a result of the increase in the maximum fine for alcoholic beverage law violators in Anne Arundel County. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In Anne Arundel County, the board of license commissioners may impose a fine of up to \$1,000 in lieu of a suspension of an alcoholic beverages license for a licensee who has violated the alcoholic beverage laws that pertain to the county. The Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners has no jurisdiction in the City of Annapolis.

Local Fiscal Effect: The amount of any increase in fine revenues resulting from this bill is unknown, as it depends upon the number of alcoholic beverage law violations as well as the penalty the board imposes on the violator. Anne Arundel County advises that, on average, it holds three to four alcoholic beverage law violation hearings per month, and approximately one-third of these violators receive the maximum penalty. Assuming that 12 alcoholic beverage law violators receive the maximum penalty set by this bill each year, county revenues would increase by \$18,000 annually.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1266 (Delegate Love) – Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2005
ncs/ljm

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