

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1126
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)

**Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Exception to Prohibition on
Licensed Premises Near Churches
PG 323-05**

This bill allows the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners to grant an alcoholic beverages license to an applicant whose business is located within 500 feet of a church if the church is located within a commercial zone.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County license fee revenues could increase to the extent that new alcoholic beverages licenses could be issued under this authority. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Overall minimal, but potential meaningful for a small business located within 500 feet of a church in a commercial zone that would be able to obtain an alcoholic beverages license under this authority.

Analysis

Current Law: In Prince George's County, an applicant for an alcoholic beverages license may not be granted the license if the premises for which the license is being obtained is located within 1,000 feet of a school building or within 500 feet of a church. The distance in question is to be measured from the main entrance of the proposed licensed establishment along the nearest usual pedestrian route to the door closest to the

licensed premises that is either the entrance or exit of any school or to the main entrance of the church building. This restriction can be waived if the governing body of the church concerned submits written consent to the granting of the license and if the written consent is filed with the license application.

Background: In general, most jurisdictions restrict new licenses from being issued to businesses near a church or school. In Montgomery County, for example, a license may not be granted if the business in question is located within 750 feet of a school, church or other place of worship, public library, or a government-sponsored youth center. With unanimous consent, however, the board of license commissioners in Montgomery County may issue an alcoholic beverages license to an applicant whose business is located more than 300 feet but less than 750 feet from a school, church or other place of worship, public library, or a government-sponsored youth center, if the business in question is within a classified commercial or industrial zone.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 23, 2005
ncs/ljm

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