

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1266
Economic Matters

(Delegate Love)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Anne Arundel County and Annapolis - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Penalties

This bill increases the maximum fine that both the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners and the City of Annapolis Board of License Commissioners may impose on an alcoholic beverages licensee who violates the alcoholic beverage laws that pertain to either Anne Arundel County or Annapolis, from \$1,000 to \$2,500. In both of these jurisdictions, the respective board of license commissioners may suspend or revoke a license instead of imposing a fine and must expunge a past alcoholic beverage laws violation three years from the date the violation occurred.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

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

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis, the respective 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 or city. 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 for both of these jurisdictions resulting from this bill is unknown, as it depends upon the number of alcoholic beverage law violations as well as the penalty the respective 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. The City of Annapolis advises that, on average, there are approximately 15 alcoholic beverages violations each year. Of these, the city advises that on average four receive the maximum penalty. Assuming that the same number of violators would receive the maximum fine of \$2,500 set by the bill, city revenues would increase by \$6,000 annually.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 874 (Senator Astle) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2005
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