

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 921
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)

**Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Gambling in Licensed Public
Establishments
PG 314-06**

This bill requires that before an application for an alcoholic beverages license for a public establishment in Prince George's County is approved, at least three members of the board of license commissioners must determine that the applicant will prohibit slot machine playing and other gambling in the establishment. It also authorizes the board to revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew an alcoholic beverages license if the board finds that slot machine playing or other gambling has occurred in the establishment.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Requiring the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners to consider whether an applicant will prohibit slot machine playing and other gambling, and authorizing the board to revoke, suspend, or refuse the renewal of a license for an establishment that has allowed slot machine playing or gambling within the establishment should not affect county finances.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal. To the extent that alcoholic beverages licenses are revoked, suspended, or not renewed in the future, there could be a negative impact on these businesses.

Analysis

Current Law: An application for an alcoholic beverages license in Prince George's County must be approved if at least three members of the board of license commissioners determine that:

- the granting of the license is necessary for accommodating the public;
- the applicant is fit to receive the license;
- the applicant has not made a material false statement in the application for the license;
- the applicant has not practiced fraud in connection with the application or the operation of the business;
- the operation of the business will not unduly disturb the peace of the residents of the neighborhood in which the business is to be located, if the license is granted; and
- there are no other reasons within the discretion of the board of license commissioners as to why the license should not be issued.

Background: Other jurisdictions prohibit or limit gambling in licensed premises. In Harford County, for example, gambling on licensed premises is generally prohibited. If illegal gambling devices are found on a licensed premises or if it is found that any illegal gambling of any character has taken place, then the Harford County Liquor Control Board may impose the following penalties:

- for a first offense – a fine between \$250 and \$2,000 or suspension or revocation of the license; and
- for a subsequent offense in the same licensing period as a first offense – a fine between \$250 and \$2,000 and suspension or revocation of the license.

In Allegany County, alcoholic beverages licensees may not allow gambling or gaming that is prohibited by law on the premises for which the license is issued. A violator faces a fine of up to \$1,000, imprisonment for up to two years, or both.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2006

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