

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 402

(Delegates Bozman and Conway)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Worcester County - Premises Licensed for Alcoholic Beverages Sales - Noise Level**

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This bill provides that if the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners find a licensed premises in violation of the county noise level limits or the noise limits of the municipality in which the premises is located, the board may require the licensee to alter the time that music is played; require the licensee to reduce the noise level; or take any other action that is authorized by law.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill's requirements can be handled with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A board of license commissioners may suspend or revoke an alcoholic beverage license for any cause which, in the judgment of the board, is necessary to promote the peace or safety of the community in which the place of business is situated. The Worcester County board may regulate the time and noise level of the playing of mechanical music boxes, live music, and sound making devices that are used on licensed

premises where the sound disturbs the peace, tranquility, safety, and health of the surrounding neighborhood.

**Background:** As residential development increases in Ocean City, residential and business areas have crowded closer and closer together. Some business owners claim that this has led to a significant increase in the number of complaints about noise levels in entertainment establishments to the Board of License Commissioners.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Worcester County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 28, 2006  
ncs/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - April 4, 2006

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