

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 482
Economic Matters

(Harford County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Residency Requirement for Applicants

This bill requires an applicant for an alcoholic beverages license in Harford County to be a bona fide resident for at least one year before filing an application for a license.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Harford County expenditures could decrease by \$1,500 to \$6,000 on an annual basis due to a reduction in contracted overtime inspection costs.

Small Business Effect: Potential Meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: An applicant for an alcoholic beverages license in Harford County must be a bona fide resident at the time he or she files an application and must remain a resident as long as the license is in effect. The applicant does not, however, need to be a registered voter.

The Liquor Control Board must require fingerprints of each applicant and obtain State and national criminal history background checks through the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

Local Fiscal Effect: The Harford County Liquor Control Board advises the bill's changes would save time and resources required to verify residency of applicants since one-year residents would have documentation, including utility bills, to verify that they have lived in the county for one year, whereas currently the board inspector must spend time verifying that an applicant lives where he or she says they do. Expenditures could decrease by \$1,500 to \$6,000 on an annual basis due to a reduction in contracted overtime inspection costs.

Small Business Effect: A small business applicant seeking to locate in Harford County that has not been a resident of the county for a year would be prevented from locating a business requiring an alcoholic beverages license, in the county, for the time period required to gain residency.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 656 (Harford County Senators) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2006
ncs/hlb

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