

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 484
Economic Matters

(Delegate Cane, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs

Wicomico County - Alcoholic Beverages Violations - Maximum Fine

This bill increases the maximum fine, from \$2,000 to \$5,000, that may be imposed by the Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners for a violation of any provision of the alcoholic beverage laws that pertain to the county.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Wicomico County fine revenue could increase by \$69,000 annually if the maximum fine were imposed on all violations, assuming a constant number of violations. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal increase in fines for alcoholic beverage law violators.

Analysis

Current Law: The Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to impose penalties and/or suspend a license of an alcoholic beverage licensee who violates alcoholic beverage laws that pertain to the county. One half of each fine imposed in Wicomico County must be provided to the county clerk of the circuit court to augment the court library and as commission for the clerk.

Local Revenue: Wicomico County reported 23 retail license violations in fiscal 2005. If similar violations trends were to continue and the board imposed the maximum fine allowed under the bill, county revenue would increase by \$69,000 annually.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 619 (Senator Colburn) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2006
ncs/hlb

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