

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1284
Economic Matters

(Delegate McComas, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Alcohol Without Liquid Machines

This bill prohibits a person from using, possessing, purchasing, transferring, or offering for sale or use an alcohol without liquid (AWOL) machine. A violator is guilty of a misdemeanor and faces a fine of up to \$1,000; each violation is a separate offense.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Because it is assumed that the bill would apply in a limited number of cases, State finances would not be materially impacted.

Local Effect: Because it is assumed that the bill would apply in a limited number of cases, local finances would not be materially impacted.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no prohibition against using, possessing, purchasing, transferring, or offering for sale or use an AWOL machine in the State of Maryland.

Background: An AWOL machine vaporizes alcoholic beverages and blends them with oxygen, creating a mist which is then inhaled through the mouth. This is a relatively new product which has been introduced into the marketplace.

The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) is aware of at least 25 bills that have been introduced in at least 16 states prohibiting alcohol vaporizing devices. DLS knows of three states – Maine, Michigan, and Nevada – that have laws prohibiting such devices.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill, HB 1213 of 2005, received an unfavorable report from the House Economic Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Comptroller's Office, Baltimore County, Charles County, Prince George's County, Somerset County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2006
mll/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 24, 2006

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