

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 1626  
Economic Matters

(Harford County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class B Restaurant Beer, Wine and  
Liquor Licenses Within an Integrated Community Shopping Center - Exception**

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This bill allows the Harford County Board of License Commissioners to waive a restriction against issuance of a license to sell alcoholic beverages within 1,000 feet of a public or private school building in order to approve a Class B (on-sale only) restaurant license, provided that the restaurant the license is issued for is located in an integrated community shopping center and the board takes into account, among other considerations, comments received from parents whose children attend the public or private school. An “integrated community shopping center” is defined as a shopping center that contains six or more retail uses, six or more retail and service uses, or a gross floor area of more than 20,000 square feet.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Harford County revenues could increase by up to \$3,000 (depending on the type of license) for each license applied for as a result of the bill’s changes.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Subject to exceptions, the board may not issue any license to sell alcoholic beverages within 300 feet of any church or other place of worship or within

1,000 feet of any public, private, parochial, or bona fide church school building. Measurement is made from the nearest point of the building of the establishment to the nearest point of the school, church, or other place of worship.

### *Exceptions*

- In the incorporated municipalities within Harford County (Bel Air, Aberdeen, Havre de Grace), the board may issue specified licenses to a bona fide hotel, motel, restaurant, club, caterer, or business establishment within the 1,000-foot limit, but not within 300 feet of any public or private school. Licenses may also be issued to a bona fide hotel, motel, restaurant, club, or caterer within 300 feet of a church or place of worship in those municipalities.
- The 1,000-foot limit may be waived where an existing retail building or unit has an entrance that is not within 1,000 feet of the nearest point of a school building and no more than 25% of the floor area of the building or unit is within 1,000 feet of a school building.
- The 1,000-foot distance limit applicable to schools and the 300-foot distance limit applicable to churches and places of worship do not apply to specified seafood and golf course licenses. The 300-foot limit applicable to churches and places of worship also does not apply to a one-day license, or a specified license issued to a caterer, for use in a building completed after July 1, 1991 and used for emergency operations by a volunteer fire company.

**Background:** The City of Baltimore and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, and Wicomico counties also have restrictions relating to the issuance of alcoholic beverages in proximity to schools and/or churches or other places of worship.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 16, 2006  
mll/hlb Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 5, 2006

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