

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 1098 (Senator Della)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages Arena Licenses - Underage Persons in
Licensed Premises**

This bill prohibits a holder of an arena license issued by the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners from allowing a person under 21 years old to remain in the licensed premises unless the person is an employee of the license holder or an entertainer performing at the licensed premises. The bill does not apply to a sports stadium or a facility owned by the State or Baltimore City. A violator is subject to a fine of up to \$500, license suspension, or both for a first violation; and a fine of up to \$1,000, license suspension, or both for each subsequent violation. The board is required to adopt implementing regulations.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential increase in Baltimore City fine revenues resulting from the bill's penalty provisions. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful negative impact for a small business operating under an arena license.

Analysis

Current Law: The holder of an arena license in Baltimore City may sell beer, wine, and liquor by the drink and by the bottle within the arena, from one or more outlets, for

consumption on the licensed premises. For the purposes of issuing an arena license, “arena” includes a facility that is a catering hall, banquet hall, auditorium, theatre, athletic facility, concert facility, or stadium.

Background: The Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners advises that there are six arena licenses issued in the city. Of these, two are sports stadiums (Oriole Park and Ravens Stadium), and two are owned by the city (the Convention Center and the First Mariner Arena). The other two license holders are Hammerjacks and Power Plant Live.

It was recently reported in the *Baltimore Sun* that certain venues in Baltimore City operating under an arena license hold events that cater to the college age crowd. The *Sun* also reported that the operator of Power Plant Live was fined for violating State liquor laws, after the city’s liquor board noted credible evidence that two bars at the venue served alcohol to underage college students.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, *Baltimore Sun*, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

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nas/hlb

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