

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 599 (Delegate Cluster, *et al.*)
Economic Matters

Alcoholic Beverages - Licensees and Permit Holders - Age Requirement

This bill requires that an individual, acting on his or her own behalf or on behalf of another person or corporation, be at least 21 years old before being issued an alcoholic beverages permit or license. This does not apply to an individual who has been issued an alcoholic beverages license or permit by the effective date of this bill. An individual who is at least 18 but younger than 21 may be issued an alcoholic beverages license for up to 12 months, if: (1) a certificate of permission is sought for the continuation of a business on the death of the license holder; or (2) the individual is a surviving spouse, partner, or senior surviving officer acting for the benefit of a partnership or corporation.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Requiring an individual to be at least 21 years old in order to obtain an alcoholic beverages license or permit would not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Alcoholic beverages licenses may not be issued to minors, unless ordered by a judge on the recommendation of at least 10 residents of the district where the license will be used. In Allegany, Caroline, Charles, Queen Anne's, and Wicomico counties, however, the application for an alcoholic beverages license must contain a statement that

the applicant is at least 21 years old. In Howard County, the application for an alcoholic beverages license must contain a statement that the applicant is at least 18 years old. Furthermore, to be issued a private bulk sales permit, the individual must be at least 21 years old.

Background: The Comptroller's Office advises that it is currently aware of approximately 50 individuals who have solicitor's permits who are under 21 years of age. A solicitor's permit grants the holder the privilege of promoting, selling, or offering beer, wine, and distilled spirits to manufacturers, wholesalers, or retailers.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This bill is identical to HB 999 of 2005, as amended by the House. The bill passed the House. It was heard in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Comptroller's Office, Kent County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Washington County, Worcester County, Department of Legislative Services

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

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