

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 190 (Senator Jacobs, *et al.*)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Repeal of Obsolete and Unused Provisions**

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This bill repeals obsolete and unused provisions relating to alcoholic beverage licensing in Harford County.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The bill would not materially affect the finances or operations of Harford County.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** State law contains several provisions relating to alcoholic beverage licensing in Harford County that are no longer used, including:

- provisions relating to issuance of a Class B-4 on-sale seafood restaurant license;
- provisions relating to licensing of racquet clubs and indoor soccer box lacrosse clubs;

- a provision allowing the board of license commissioners to waive certain restrictions relating to the licensing of a retail establishment within 1,000 feet of a school;
- a provision limiting issuance or transfer of Class A (off-sale) beer, wine, and liquor licenses in neighborhoods with existing licensees;
- provisions exempting the Harford County Board of License Commissioners from considering certain factors relating to community impact before issuing a license;
- a provision permitting possession of alcoholic beverages brought on the premises of racetracks holding a retail license;
- a provision on oversight of inspectors by a general manager; and
- a provision authorizing the Harford County Liquor Control Board to borrow up to \$75,000 for acquiring, establishing, and operating a county dispensary.

**Background:** The provisions being repealed no longer apply in Harford County. Regarding certain licenses, a Class B-4 on-sale seafood restaurant license has not been issued since 2000; a racquet club has not applied for a license for more than 20 years; and an indoor soccer box lacrosse club has never been issued a license.

Restrictions regarding licenses issued for establishments within 1,000 feet of a school are not needed, as other provisions of law permit licensing of an establishment that is 300 feet or more from a school building.

Language regarding the issuance or transfer of Class A licenses is being removed and replaced with standard State language requiring consideration of community impact. The board of license commissioners is currently prohibited from issuing a license in a neighborhood where such a license has already been issued; the change allows broad consideration of impact and addresses the fact that neighborhood is currently undefined in statute.

A provision regarding possession of alcoholic beverages at racetracks is repealed as there is no longer a racetrack located in Harford County. The bill also removes a requirement that inspectors report to a general manager; inspectors are directly responsible to the liquor control board. References to a county dispensary are removed as the county no longer operates dispensaries.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 299 (Harford County Delegation) – Economic Matters.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 2007  
ncs/hlb

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