

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 981 (Senator McFadden)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore City - Board of Liquor License Commissioners - Personnel

This bill requires the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners to employ six permanent part-time field enforcement aides, with annual salaries ranging from \$3,600 to \$4,800. The board is prohibited from hiring a new permanent part-time inspector on or after October 1, 2007. The positions of executive secretary and deputy executive secretary are renamed to director and deputy director.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City expenditures could increase by \$23,300 in FY 2008 and by \$31,000 on an annualized basis. This estimate assumes the maximum annual salary and payroll taxes. City revenues would not be directly affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners must appoint an executive secretary and a deputy executive secretary. In addition, the board must employ 18 permanent part-time inspectors.

Background: Baltimore City advises that the board currently employs 7 part-time inspectors, even though State law specifies that the board employ 18 part-time inspectors.

Furthermore, based on current practices, part-time inspectors are selected by State senators representing Baltimore City.

Baltimore City advises that to effectively enforce underage drinking laws, the board must utilize some persons under the age of 21 and have inspectors who will easily blend in at places where underage drinking violations commonly occur. Due to the advanced age of most of the current part-time inspectors, the city often utilizes the Maryland State Police to hire cadets for underage drinking enforcement operations.

Local Fiscal Effect: Baltimore City personnel expenditures could increase by \$23,300 in fiscal 2008 and by \$31,000 on an annualized basis, assuming the six new field enforcement aides receive the maximum salary. This estimate includes employer-paid Social Security taxes. This expense would be offset to some extent by the retirement of existing part-time inspectors.

The board advises that having its own staff of enforcement aides would allow greater flexibility in scheduling underage drinking enforcement. This could lead to increased enforcement and increased revenues from fines. Based on current law, the board must employ 18 part-time inspectors, 11 more than are currently employed by the board. Legislative Services advises that the board could hire younger part-time inspectors to carry out underage drinking enforcement operations.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2007
mll/hlb

Analysis by: Erik P. Timme

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510