

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 373
Economic Matters

(Charles County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Charles County - Alcoholic Beverages - Protest Against License Renewal

This bill requires a protest to the renewal of alcoholic beverage licenses in Charles County to be filed under oath and include the specific basis for the protest. Protests lacking substance may be dismissed without a hearing at the discretion of the Charles County Board of License Commissioners.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect Charles County finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The holder of an expiring alcoholic beverage license must submit a written renewal application not less than 30 days before the first day of May each year. The written application must be verified under oath with the official authorized to approve the license. Upon filing and payment of the annual fee, the license holder is entitled to a new license unless additional information is requested by the licensing authority. These provisions do not apply in Prince George's County.

If a protest pertaining to a renewal of a specific license is received at least 30 days before the expiration date, the licensing authority must hold a hearing on the matter. To qualify, a protest must be signed by at least 10 community residents, commercial tenants, or real estate owners. The licensing authority may independently initiate a protest hearing at its discretion. The protest must be heard in the same manner as an original application.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2007
ncs/hlb

Analysis by: Erik P. Timme

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