

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1103  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Love)

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Alcoholic Beverages - Alcohol Awareness Program - Classroom Attendance

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This bill requires that classroom attendance be mandatory for certain portions of currently required alcohol awareness training classes for holders of alcoholic beverages licenses. Classroom attendance is required for an alcoholic beverages licensee or a designated employee of the licensee for both the instruction and test-taking portion of an initial training course. Classroom attendance is only required for the test-taking portion of a retraining course.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill would not substantively change State activities or operations.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** A holder of any class of retail alcoholic beverages license or an employee designated by the holder must complete an approved alcohol awareness training program. The training program is valid for four years, at which time the individual must complete a retraining course. Also required to meet alcohol awareness training requirements are • a

holder of a caterer's license in Montgomery County; and • any bottle club in Baltimore City.

Persons holding temporary alcoholic beverages licenses, Class E (on-sale) steamboat, Class F (on-sale) railroad, and Class G (on-sale) aircraft alcoholic beverages licenses are exempt from this requirement.

**Background:** The Comptroller's Office has approved and certified 19 alcohol awareness programs in the State. Some of these programs have components that can be completed online and one certified program can be completed fully online without any classroom attendance required. The statute requires that a certified alcohol awareness program contain the following information:

- instruction on how alcohol affects a person's body and behavior;
- provides education on the dangers of drinking and driving; and
- defines effective methods for:
  - serving customers to minimize the chance of intoxication;
  - ceasing service before the customer becomes intoxicated; and
  - determining if a customer is under the legal drinking age.

Licensed alcohol awareness instructors teaching approved classes must comply with program requirements as certified by the Comptroller's Office. This means that the course content and the number of minimum classroom hours as presented by the program provider must be part of the actual program given by an instructor.

**Small Business Effect:** The classroom attendance requirement provided in the bill would require some businesses that operate alcohol awareness training programs to modify their program format and have it recertified by the Comptroller's Office. The Comptroller's Office advises that there is one program that has course instruction by way of Internet only. This program would need to be changed to meet enacted certification requirements. Another program offers both a classroom and Internet structure. This program would need to discontinue use of Internet instruction for initial training courses.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Allegany County, Baltimore City, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Talbot County, Wicomico County, Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 19, 2007  
bfl/hlb

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