

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 356
Economic Matters

(Washington County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Washington County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Administrative Proceedings

This bill allows the Washington County Board of License Commissioners to take administrative action against a licensee if the licensee or an employee of the licensee is granted probation before judgment for the offense of selling alcohol to a minor.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill would not materially affect Washington County finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In Washington County, if a licensee or an employee of a licensee is found not guilty of, or placed on probation before judgment, for the offense of selling an alcoholic beverage to a minor, the board of license commissioners may not take administrative action against the license holder. Eight counties currently allow for administrative action to be taken against a licensee if probation before judgment is granted to a licensee or an employee of the licensee. The counties include Cecil, Dorchester, Garrett, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, St. Mary's, and Wicomico.

The Washington County Board of License Commissioners may impose a fine of up to \$1,500 for disciplinary purposes. The board may also suspend a licensee depending on if the public welfare and morals would be impaired by allowing the licensee to operate during the period set for the suspension.

Background: If a license holder is issued probation before judgment for selling alcohol to a minor, the board of license commissioners is not necessarily notified of the violation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2007
ncs/hlb

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