

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 806 (Senator McFadden)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages Act of 2007

This bill revises and clarifies the section of the code that restricts the issuance and transfer of licenses into certain areas of Baltimore City. The bill specifies that certain alcoholic beverages districts in Baltimore City are coterminous with legislative districts, using new wards and precincts which came into existence with the legislative districting plan of 2002 as ordered by the Maryland Court of Appeals on June 21, 2002.

The bill requires the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners to obtain national and State criminal history records checks for any new alcoholic beverages license applicant. Additionally, an inspector employed by the board is authorized to examine any identification used as proof of age by a person for the purchase of alcoholic beverages in their jurisdiction.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The total cost of a criminal history records check and fingerprinting is \$62 which includes State and national background checks. This cost would be borne by the applicant. Assuming fewer than 10,000 applicants, State expenditures would not be affected.

Local Effect: None. Any cost for background checks would be passed on to applicants.

Small Business Effect: An applicant for an alcoholic beverages license would be responsible for paying additional fees associated with a national and State criminal history records check.

Analysis

Current Law: The Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners requires any application for an alcoholic beverages license to include a statement that the applicant has never been convicted of a felony or been adjudged guilty of violating the laws governing the sale of alcoholic beverages in the State of Maryland.

Background: Alcoholic beverages licensing authorities in Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, St. Mary's, and Wicomico counties are required to perform a State and national criminal history records check and fingerprinting. Anne Arundel, Prince George's, and Worcester counties are only required to perform a State criminal history records check.

The bill requires a criminal history records check for each new alcoholic beverages license applicant in Baltimore City. In Maryland, the total cost of each criminal history records check is \$62, which includes State and national background checks plus fingerprinting.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill was introduced in 2005 as SB 535. The bill received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. No further action was taken on the bill.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 2007
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