

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 297

(Harford County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages Licensees - Age of Employees**

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This bill requires bartenders in Harford County to be at least 21 years old; a person 18 to 20 years old is authorized to act as a bartender only if the person is a son or daughter of the owner of the establishment. The bill further requires waiters or waitresses who serve alcoholic beverages to be at least 18. Bartenders' assistants at least 16 years old are authorized to replace ice or remove trash at a bar, but are prohibited from handling or distributing alcoholic beverages.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The bill would not affect the finances or operations of Harford County.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Several age-related guidelines govern the employment of persons in licensed retail establishments. In general, persons under the age of 18 are prohibited from selling alcoholic beverages. Persons under the age of 21 may not be involved in the sale of alcoholic beverages at an establishment with a Class D (tavern) beer, wine, and liquor license; however, persons ages 18 to 21 are authorized to sell beer or light wine in other categories of licensed retailers.

Several jurisdictions have adopted separate provisions applying to employment of minors by retail dealers. In Harford County, a licensee is prohibited from employing or permitting a person under 18 to sell or serve alcoholic beverages.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 189 (Senator Jacobs, *et al.*) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 13, 2007  
mll/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 23, 2007

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