

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 299
Economic Matters

(Harford County Delegation)

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Repeal of Obsolete and Unused Provisions

This bill repeals obsolete and unused provisions relating to alcoholic beverage licensing in Harford County.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

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

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State law contains several provisions relating to alcoholic beverage licensing in Harford County that are no longer used, including:

- provisions relating to issuance of a Class B-4 on-sale seafood restaurant license;
- provisions relating to licensing of racquet clubs and indoor soccer box lacrosse clubs;

- a provision allowing the board of license commissioners to waive certain restrictions relating to the licensing of a retail establishment within 1,000 feet of a school;
- a provision limiting issuance or transfer of Class A (off-sale) beer, wine, and liquor licenses in neighborhoods with existing licensees;
- provisions exempting the Harford County Board of License Commissioners from considering certain factors relating to community impact before issuing a license;
- a provision permitting possession of alcoholic beverages brought on the premises of racetracks holding a retail license;
- a provision on oversight of inspectors by a general manager; and
- a provision authorizing the Harford County Liquor Control Board to borrow up to \$75,000 for acquiring, establishing, and operating a county dispensary.

Background: The provisions being repealed no longer apply in Harford County. Regarding certain licenses, a Class B-4 on-sale seafood restaurant license has not been issued since 2000; a racquet club has not applied for a license for more than 20 years; and an indoor soccer box lacrosse club has never been issued a license.

Restrictions regarding licenses issued for establishments within 1,000 feet of a school are not needed, as other provisions of law permit licensing of an establishment that is 300 feet or more from a school building.

Language regarding the issuance or transfer of Class A licenses is being removed and replaced with standard State language requiring consideration of community impact. The board of license commissioners is currently prohibited from issuing a license in a neighborhood where such a license has already been issued; the change allows broad consideration of impact and addresses the fact that neighborhood is currently undefined in statute.

A provision regarding possession of alcoholic beverages at racetracks is repealed as there is no longer a racetrack located in Harford County. The bill also removes a requirement that inspectors report to a general manager; inspectors are directly responsible to the liquor control board. References to a county dispensary are removed as the county no longer operates dispensaries.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 190 (Senator Jacobs, *et al.*) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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ncs/hlb

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