

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 379
Economic Matters

(Charles County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

**Charles County - Alcoholic Beverages - Drinking on Public Property and in
Other Areas**

This bill repeals the exemption in Charles County from prohibitions against drinking alcoholic beverages without authorization on public property.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Minimal revenue increase in Charles County from fines (\$100 per offense). Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Except in Charles, Kent, and Queen Anne's counties, a person may not drink an alcoholic beverage without proper authorization on public property. Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a maximum \$100 fine.

“Public property” includes any building, ground, park, street, highway, alley, sidewalk, station, terminal, or other structure, road or parking area located on land owned, leased, or operated by this State, a county, a municipality, Washington Suburban Sanitary

Commission, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County Revenue Authority, or Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Background: Charles County indicates that the Town of La Plata has a public consumption ordinance. That ordinance may only be enforced by municipal police.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None

Cross File: None

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

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

Analysis by: Erik P. Timme

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510