

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 331

(St. Mary's County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs

---

**St. Mary's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Maximum Fine for Sales Violations**

---

This bill increases the maximum penalty from \$500 to \$1,000 for violations of alcoholic beverage licensing laws in St. Mary's County. The bill also clarifies that the Alcohol Beverage Board has the authority to revoke or suspend an alcoholic beverage license or impose a fine on a licensee.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** St. Mary's County fine revenues could increase by \$9,000 annually beginning in FY 2009 if the maximum fine is imposed for all violations, assuming no change in the number of violations. Expenditures would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal increase in fines for noncompliant alcoholic beverage licensees.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The St. Mary's County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to impose penalties and revoke or suspend an alcoholic beverage license for any licensing violations. All fines imposed are payable to St. Mary's County.

**Local Revenues:** St. Mary's County advises that there were nine alcoholic beverage violations in the first six months of fiscal 2008. If the maximum fine is imposed and current trends continue, St. Mary's County could realize an additional \$9,000 in fine revenues beginning in fiscal 2009. According to the Comptroller's Office, there were 33 reported retail license violations in St. Mary's County in fiscal 2007.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 217 of 2007, an identical bill, passed in the House. The bill passed with amendments in the Senate, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** St. Mary's County, Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2008  
ncs/hlb

---

Analysis by: Jennifer K. Botts

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