

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 372  
Economic Matters

(Charles County Delegation)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Charles County - Alcoholic Beverages Violations - Penalties**

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This bill increases from \$1,000 to \$2,500, the maximum fine that the Charles County Board of License Commissioners may impose for any violation of alcoholic beverages laws. The bill provides that the board may impose the fine in addition to suspending an alcoholic beverage license for any violation. The bill also increases the maximum fine that may be imposed for selling alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 years of age from \$500 to \$750 on a licensee for a first offense and from \$150 to \$500 on an employee of a licensee.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Charles County revenues may increase by \$5,200 in FY 2010 and by \$6,900 annually beginning in FY 2011. Expenditures are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Charles County Board of License Commissioners may impose a maximum fine of \$1,000 or suspend an alcoholic beverages license for any violation of the alcoholic beverage laws affecting Charles County.

For a first offense, the board of license commissioners may suspend the license for a maximum of three days or impose a maximum fine of \$500 if an alcoholic beverages licensee or an employee of an alcoholic beverages licensee sells alcoholic beverages to

a person under 21 years of age. The board of license commissioners may impose a maximum fine of \$150 on an employee of an alcoholic beverages licensee who sells alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 years of age.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Charles County estimates that revenues will increase by \$5,175 in fiscal 2010 and \$6,900 annually beginning in fiscal 2011. According to the Comptroller's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Annual Report for fiscal 2008, all but one of the 53 retail violations in Charles County involved the sale of alcohol to a minor.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 19, 2009  
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