

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1463  
Economic Matters

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

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Charles County - Alcoholic Beverages Sales - Proximity to Churches

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This bill repeals a provision of law that prohibits the Board of License Commissioners in Charles County from issuing a license to sell alcoholic beverages in any building within 500 feet of a church or other place of worship.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2009.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Potential increase in Charles County revenues if new alcoholic beverages licenses are issued for premises located near churches or places of worship. Revenues increase by \$500 to \$2,400 for each new license.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful for any establishment that is able to obtain an alcoholic beverages license due to the bill's repeal of restrictions on proximity to churches or places of worship.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The Board of License Commissioners in Charles County may not issue any license to sell alcoholic beverages in any building in which the nearest wall, measured in a direct line, is within 500 feet of the property line of any church or place of worship or any school accredited by the State Board of Education. There is an exception if the church or other place of worship or the school locates its building within 500 feet of any licensed premises after the licensed premises are located there. This prohibition does

not apply to a Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license that is issued for a premises located in a municipal corporation in Charles County.

Annual license fees in Charles County range from \$500 to \$2,400.

**Background:** Charles County indicates that within the county, churches have recently started opening in shopping centers. Due to the current restrictions, a new business would generally not be able to obtain an alcoholic beverages license for use in a shopping center where a church is located.

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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 - March 19, 2009  
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