

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1508 (Delegates Eckardt and Haddaway)  
Economic Matters

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**Dorchester County - New Board of License Commissioners**

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This bill repeals statutory provisions designating the Dorchester County Council as the Dorchester County Board of License Commissioners and specifies nomination and appointment procedures for a new board.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2009.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. Altering the selection process of board members does not affect Dorchester County finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The new Dorchester County Board of License Commissioners will consist of five members, one from each of the county's councilmanic districts. Each member of the county council must nominate an individual from the member's district to serve on the board and submit that name to the Governor. The central committees for the two major political parties in the county must also nominate one person from each of the five councilmanic districts to serve on the board and submit those names to the Governor. Members of the county council may nominate themselves or be nominated by one of the political party central committees.

The Governor must appoint one person from each councilmanic district from the names submitted by the county council members and the central committees. The Governor's appointees must ensure that both major political parties are represented on the board.

Board members serve staggered four-year terms beginning July 1, 2009. A board member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies. A member who is appointed after a term has begun continues to serve until the end of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies. A member may be appointed to one or more terms, and may be removed by the Governor for incompetence or misconduct.

Three members constitute a quorum of the board, and the board determines the times and places of its meetings.

**Current Law:** The five members of the Dorchester County Council currently serve as the Dorchester County Board of License Commissioners. Members or employees of the Dorchester County Board of License Commissioners may not have a financial interest in the manufacture of alcoholic beverages or in any alcoholic beverages purchased or sold. Also, they may not derive any profit from the purchase or sale of alcoholic beverages, other than a salary and wage for their statutory duties on the board. Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor, subject to a maximum penalty of 30 days imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of \$2,000.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** While SB 1010 is not designated as a cross file the bill is identical to HB 1508.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 19, 2009  
ncs/mwc

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