

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 645  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Carter, *et al.*)

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**Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Prohibition Against Underage Individuals  
in Liquor Stores**

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This bill prohibits the holder of a Class A beer and light wine license, Class A beer, wine, and liquor license, or a Class A-2 beer, wine, and liquor off-sale package goods license in Baltimore City from allowing an individual under the age of 21 years to enter the licensed premises unless the individual is an employee of the licensee or accompanied by a parent or guardian. Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$500 and/or license suspension for a first offense; and a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or license suspension for a second and each subsequent violation. In addition, a person who is under 21 years of age and who remains in the licensed premises after being asked to leave must be issued a citation and is also subject to the provisions of Section 10-119 of the Criminal Law Article. The Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners must adopt regulations to implement the provisions of the bill.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues due to the bill's penalty provisions. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal revenue increase due to the bill's penalty provisions. Expenditures are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** The holder of a Class A beer and light wine license, Class A beer, wine, and liquor license, or a Class A-2 beer, wine, and liquor off-sale package good license in Baltimore City is not prohibited from allowing an individual under the age of 21 years to enter the licensed premises unless the individual is an employee of the licensee or accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Under Section 10-119 of the Criminal Law Article, code violations may be subject to fines ranging from \$500 for a first offense to \$1,000 for a second and subsequent offense.

**Background:** There are 37 Class A beer and light wine licensees, 234 Class A beer, wine, and liquor licensees in Baltimore City. In addition, there are 527 Class BD-7 beer, wine, and liquor (on or off sale) licensees in the City.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 242 (Senator Gladden) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 9, 2010  
ncs/hlb

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Analysis by: Michael Sanelli

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