

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 962
Economic Matters

(Delegate Conaway, *et al.*)

**Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Signs on Licensed Premises Prohibiting
Sales to Underage Individuals**

This bill requires the holder of an alcoholic beverages license in Baltimore City to post a sign in a conspicuous location on the licensed premises that states that Maryland law prohibits the license holder or an employee of the license holder from selling or providing an alcoholic beverage to an individual under the age of 21. The Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners must adopt guidelines for the design of the required sign. A violation by a license holder subjects the violator to a warning for a first offense and a civil penalty of \$100 for a second or subsequent offense.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners can enforce the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Licensees will have to purchase or have a sign made that meets those guidelines. Assuming that the guidelines for the design of a sign are reasonable, the cost for the sign and its display are not expected to be outside of the ability of any single business to afford.

Analysis

Current Law: The prohibition against selling or providing alcoholic beverages to individuals under the age of 21 applies statewide.

Background: In fiscal 2010, the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners issued 1,257 retail alcoholic beverages licenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2011
mlm/hlb

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

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