

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 973  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Eckardt, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Dorchester County Liquor Act of 2011**

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This bill removes an obsolete residency requirement for voters who sign a petition to support an application for an alcoholic beverages license in Dorchester County. The bill also repeals language restricting Class B or Class C licensees in Dorchester County from selling alcoholic beverages from a bar or a counter on Sundays.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill repeals obsolete statutory provisions and is not expected to affect Dorchester County finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** In many counties an application for an alcoholic beverages license must contain a certificate signed by at least 10 citizens who are owners of property of real estate and registered voters in the precinct where the business is to be conducted. Applicants for alcoholic beverage licenses in Dorchester County are exempt from this requirement; however, State law requires each voter in Dorchester County who signs a certificate supporting an application for an alcoholic beverages license to have resided in the voting precinct in with the applicant proposes to do business for 365 consecutive days immediately prior to the date of the filing of such an application.

**Background:** Five Class B alcoholic beverage licensees are issued to hotels, motels, inns, and restaurants. Class C licenses are issued to nonprofit organizations, clubs, lodges, or nationally chartered fraternal organizations. In fiscal 2010, Dorchester County issued 28 Class B licenses and 9 Class C licenses.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 541 (Senator Colburn) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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

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