

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 840

(Senator Rosapepe)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Alcoholic Beverages - City of Laurel - Sales by License Holders

This bill requires the Laurel City Council to determine if a license may be granted for the sale of alcoholic beverages in a building located within 500 feet of the church.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill's requirements can be handled with the existing budgeted resources of the Laurel City Council. It is assumed that determinations by the city council under the bill will be infrequent.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: An alcoholic beverages license in the State may not be granted to sell alcoholic beverages in any building located within 500 feet of a church. The footage is to be measured from the front door or main entrance, whichever is nearest the street abutting the premises, of the proposed licensed establishment along the nearest usual pedestrian route to the door closest to the licensed premises which is used as an entrance or exit to the main entrance of the church building.

This restriction does not apply if the governing body of the church concerned consents in writing to the granting of the license. The consent must be filed with the alcoholic beverages license application. The license of any person or persons or for the use of a

corporation or unincorporated association issued for any building located within the requisite distance from a church may be renewed or extended for the same building.

Background: This bill was requested by the Laurel Clergy Association because of some conflicts in exclusion between restaurants having an alcoholic beverages license and houses of worship.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): City of Laurel, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 22, 2012
mm/hlb Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 22, 2012

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