

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1266 (Delegate Kramer)  
Economic Matters

---

Alcoholic Beverages - Sunday Sales

---

This bill authorizes a local alcoholic beverages licensing board to adopt rules allowing the sale of alcoholic beverages under the license during any period from Sunday at 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following Monday. The bill also specifies that rules of a local licensing board regarding Sunday sales supersede statewide alcoholic beverages laws.

---

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Exempting local licensing boards from State authority to set hours of sale for alcoholic beverages on Sundays, regardless of license type, has no direct impact on State operations; however, additional Sunday sales may result in an increase in State sales tax revenues.

**Local Effect:** The bill may result in changes to the terms of some current local licenses, and by inference, allow local licensing boards to increase fees in jurisdictions where Sunday sales are not currently in accord with the bill's authorization. The extent to which local jurisdictions may seek to alter current statutory Sunday licensing provisions that may not comport with rules adopted by local licensing boards is not known.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful.

---

Analysis

**Current Law:** Every county in the State, and the City of Annapolis, has an entity that issues alcoholic beverages licenses to restaurants, liquor stores, bars, clubs, and other retail dealers in its jurisdiction. Although they may go under other names, these license-issuing authorities are commonly known as boards of license commissioners.

The boards are required to regulate licensed retail dealers in accordance with statutory provisions, which include allowable days and hours of sale.

Four jurisdictions in the State (Montgomery, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties) also have liquor control boards, which do not issue licenses. These boards act as the exclusive wholesale distributor of some or all of the alcoholic beverages in its jurisdiction and operate retail liquor stores, called dispensaries.

Days of sale and hours of sale for each jurisdiction varies, but are set by statutory authorization of the General Assembly. Although any local jurisdiction may now seek changes to days and hours of sale from the General Assembly, this bill grants the local boards of license commissioners a power and authority over Sunday sales that now rest with the General Assembly.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 21, 2012  
mc/hlb

---

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

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