

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 106

(Senator Colburn)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

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Talbot County - Alcoholic Beverages Violations - Issuance of Citations

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This bill authorizes alcoholic beverages inspectors in Talbot County to issue civil citations for alcoholic beverages violations relating to the misrepresentation of one's age to obtain alcoholic beverages, the underage possession of alcohol, possession and use of false documentation to obtain alcohol, and the possession or altering the registration form of a keg.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund revenue due to additional fines collected in the District Court from individuals found guilty of alcoholic beverages violations.

**Local Effect:** Authorizing inspectors in Talbot County to issue civil citations for alcoholic beverages violations does not directly affect Talbot County finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Alcoholic beverages inspectors in Anne Arundel, Frederick, Harford, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties have the power to issue civil citations for alcoholic beverages violations. Alcoholic beverages inspectors (1) must have successfully completed a program of training in the proper use of arrest authority and

pertinent police procedures; and (2) may not carry firearms in the performance of their duties.

Anyone under the age of 21 is prohibited from obtaining alcoholic beverages. In addition, it is illegal for an individual to misrepresent the individual's age in the purchase of alcoholic beverages or knowingly furnish alcoholic beverages to someone under the age of 21. Individuals under 18 years of age who violate this law are issued a citation and the offense is usually adjudicated in juvenile court. Individuals over the age of 18 who violate the law receive a citation and are fined a maximum of \$500 for the first offense and a maximum of \$1,000 for repeat offenses. Fines for these violations are collected in District Court.

**Background:** For all jurisdictions, the vast majority of alcoholic beverages violations (for persons at least 18 years old) are adjudicated in the District Court.

**State Fiscal Effect:** Assuming Talbot County alcoholic beverages inspectors issue more citations for alcoholic beverages violations, State general fund revenues could increase due to increased fines collected in the District Court. Any additional fine revenue is assumed to be minimal.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 16 (Delegate Haddaway-Riccio) - Economic Matters.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 27, 2012  
ncs/hlb

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