

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 300
Economic Matters

(Charles County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Charles County - Alcoholic Beverages - Licenses

This emergency bill alters the minimum distance restriction in Charles County so that a license to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption *off* premises may not be granted in any building in which the nearest wall, measured in a direct line, is within 1,000 feet, rather than 500 feet, of the property line of any school accredited by the State Board of Education. The existing 500-foot restriction remains with respect to a license to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption *on* premises. The bill does not apply to, affect, or prohibit the renewal or transfer of any license issued prior to May 1, 2014. The bill also requires the Charles County Board of License Commissioners to include contact information for the applicant on a sign that the board is required under current law to supply to an applicant for an alcoholic beverages license. The bill also increases the minimum size of the sign. If the proposed establishment is under construction or renovation or is not easily accessible to the public, the applicant must post an additional notice on the premises at an easily accessible location to the public.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill's requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but potential meaningful for establishments that are unable to obtain an alcoholic beverages license under the bill.

Analysis

Current Law: The Charles County Board of License Commissioners may not issue any license to sell alcoholic beverages in any building in which the nearest wall, measured in a direct line, is within 500 feet of the property line of any school accredited by the State Board of Education. There is an exception if the school locates its building within 500 feet of any licensed premises after the licensed premises is located there. This prohibition does not apply to a Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license that is issued for a premises located in a municipal corporation in Charles County.

Before the Charles County Board of License Commissioners approves any application for a license, the board must publish a notice of the application two times in two successive weeks in one newspaper of general circulation in the county. The applicant must pay the board a one-time posting fee of \$35 for a new license, transfer of an existing license, or upgrade of an existing license. The board must supply the applicant with the notice on a sign that is not less than 12 by 18 inches in size and contains the following information:

- class of license for which the application is made;
- name and trade name of the applicant; and
- time, date, and place of the hearing.

The applicant must post the notice in a conspicuous place on the premises described in the application for 20 consecutive days before the hearing.

Background: There are 184 alcoholic beverages licenses in Charles County. Under the bill, a license to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption that has *both an on- and off-premise privilege* in Charles County may not be granted in any building in which the nearest wall, measured in a direct line, is within 1,000 feet of the property line of any school accredited by the State Board of Education.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Charles County, Maryland State Department of Education, Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 29, 2014
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