

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1090 (Howard County Delegation)  
Economic Matters

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**Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages - Population Restriction on Class A  
Licenses  
Ho. Co. 1-14**

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This bill limits the number of Class A alcoholic beverage licenses of any type that can be issued by the Howard County Board of License Commissioners to one license for every 4,000 Howard County residents, as determined by the latest federal census. However, this limitation does not apply to a license issued for use in an existing shopping center or a proposed shopping center development for which a building permit has been issued that contains 200,000 or more square feet of commercial retail space.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Altering the number of Class A licenses that may be issued does not materially affect Howard County revenues, as discussed below.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal. The bill limits the Class A licenses in Howard County to 71 licenses, but there are only currently 61 Class A licenses in Howard County. In future years, small businesses attempting to obtain a Class A license in Howard County may not be able to enter the market, which could benefit current Class A licensees.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** The Howard County Board of License Commissioners is authorized to issue an alcoholic beverages license to applicants who meet statutory requirements. There is no established limit on the number of licenses issued.

**Background:** There are currently 61 Class A alcoholic beverage licenses issued in Howard County. The 2010 Census reported 287,085 Howard County residents, so the bill limits Class A alcoholic beverage licenses to 71, with a specified exception.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Since there are 61 Class A alcoholic beverages licenses in Howard County, and the bill limits Class A alcoholic beverages licenses in Howard County to 71, except for specified establishments, the bill has no current fiscal effect. In the long term, Howard County could experience a reduction in Class A licensing revenue as a result of the bill. The amount of the impact will depend on future population growth and the amount of turnover in Class A licenses.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Howard County, U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2014  
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