

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 705

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Penalties
PG 304-15

The bill alters the authority of the Board of License Commissioners in Prince George's County to impose a fine, instead of or in addition to suspension or revocation of a license, for any violation that is cause of suspension or revocation of a license. Currently, the board may impose a fine of up to \$12,500. Under the bill, the board is authorized to impose (1) a fine of *up to* \$1,500 for a first offense, except for a violation involving furnishing or allowing underage consumption; (2) a fine of \$1,500 for a first offense of a violation involving furnishing or allowing underage consumption; (3) a fine between \$1,501 and \$6,000 for a second offense in the same 24-month period; and (4) a fine of \$7,500 for a third offense in the same 24-month period. For a fourth offense in the same 24-month period, unless the license is revoked, the board *must* impose a 30-day suspension.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential significant impact on annual fine revenue in Prince George's County. The extent of any such impact depends on the number of offenses that occur, whether an offense was committed a previous time during the same 24-month period, and actual fines levied by the board under the bill compared to current law. Accordingly, any impact cannot be reliably predicted or quantified. Expenditures are not materially affected.

Small Business Effect: None, assuming compliance with the law.

Analysis

Current Law: In Prince George's County, the Board of License Commissioners may impose a fine of up to \$12,500, instead of or in addition to suspension or revocation of a license for any violation that is cause for suspension or revocation under the county's alcoholic beverage laws.

Background: Prince George's County reports that, in fiscal 2014, the board assessed fines totaling approximately \$347,000 for violations that may be a cause of suspension or revocation of a license.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2015
md/lgc Revised - House Third Reader - March 24, 2015

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