

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 328
Economic Matters

(Harford County Delegation)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Applications for Licenses

This bill exempts an applicant for an alcoholic beverages license in Harford County from the requirement to submit a certificate to the board of license commissioners that meets specified requirements.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Harford County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but potential meaningful positive impact for any small business that is no longer required to submit a certificate with its application for an alcoholic beverages license.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: The bill repeals the requirement that every application for an alcoholic beverages license filed in Harford County must contain a certificate that (1) is signed by at least 10 citizens who are owners of real estate and registered voters of the precinct in which the business is to be located; (2) states the length of time each signer has known the applicant, or, in the case of a corporation, with the individuals making the application; (3) states that they have examined the application and that they believe that all the statements contained in this application are true; and (4) states that they believe the applicant is a suitable person to obtain the license. The bill also repeals the requirement

that the certificate must have a statement that the signers are familiar with the premises where the proposed business will be located and that they believe the location and building are suitable for the business of selling alcoholic beverages.

Background: In fiscal 2014, 199 alcoholic beverages licenses were in effect in Harford County. Harford County advises that there were 11 new or transfer to new business entity applications during the 12-month period between May 1, 2013, and April 30, 2014.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2015
min/lgc

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