

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 70
Economic Matters

(Delegate Luedtke)

Finance

Business Regulation - Billiard Table License - Repeal

This bill repeals the licensure requirement for a person to keep a billiard table for commercial use in the State. The associated fee and penalty are also repealed.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues are not materially affected, as explained below. Modifications to the electronic licensing system maintained by the Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts) are not expected to be significant and can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: Local government revenues decrease minimally beginning in FY 2017 from foregone billiard table license fees. Local government expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Nominal licensing fees paid by small businesses to keep billiard tables for commercial use are eliminated by the bill. The benefit to small businesses in Cecil County and Baltimore City (where the per-table fee is \$20 and \$40, respectively) is marginally greater than for small businesses located elsewhere in the State.

Analysis

Current Law: Except in Washington County, a person must have a billiard table license whenever that person keeps a billiard table for commercial use in the State. "Billiard table" includes a pool table. Generally, an applicant for a billiard table license must pay the clerk of the circuit court in each county a license fee of \$10 per table. The per-table fee is \$20 in Cecil County and \$40 in Baltimore City.

A person who keeps a billiard table for commercial use without a license is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a penalty of a \$500 fine per billiard table.

Background: State billiard table licenses are issued, and licensing fees are collected, by the circuit court clerk in each local jurisdiction. Although the licenses are issued by the circuit court clerk, the Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts) maintains the central electronic licensing system for these licenses.

Baltimore City advises that there are currently nine State billiard table licenses in the city. Montgomery County advises that there are no State billiard table licenses in the county.

State Fiscal Effect: State billiard table licenses are issued by the circuit court clerks in local jurisdictions. In general, the local governments keep 92% of the licensing fee revenue, the clerks' offices retain 5% of the revenue, and 3% of the revenue reverts to the general fund. The Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts) advises that it collected \$11,455 in fiscal 2015 from billiard table fees, yielding just \$344 for the general fund. Assuming that the number of licenses issued remains relatively constant on an annual basis, eliminating the license fee does not materially affect general fund revenues. Removal of the penalty provision is not anticipated to materially affect State revenues.

Modifications to the electronic licensing system maintained by the Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts) are not expected to be significant and can be handled with existing resources. The Judiciary advises that the estimated cost is approximately \$2,500.

Local Revenues: In general, local governments retain 92% of the revenue from the licensing of billiard tables, most of which renew on May 1 of each year. Assuming annual revenue would have remained constant at the fiscal 2015 level of \$11,455, local government revenues decrease by \$10,539 annually from foregone billiard table license fees.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Baltimore City, Montgomery County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 22, 2016
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