

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2016 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 543

(Allegany County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Allegany County - Alcoholic Beverages - Minimum Age to Serve Liquor**

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This bill decreases the minimum age to serve liquor in Allegany County from age 21 to age 18, making the minimum age to serve liquor consistent with the minimum age to serve beer and light wine.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. Allegany County can continue to monitor minimum age requirements with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A license holder in Allegany County may employ an individual between ages 18 and 21. To serve beer and light wine, an individual is required to be at least age 18. To serve liquor, an individual is required to be at least age 21.

**Background:** In fiscal 2015, there were a total of 157 alcoholic beverages licenses issued for use in Allegany County, 93 of which were beer, wine, and liquor licenses. The Allegany County Board of License Commissioners advises that there have been no recent arrests or citations for underage individuals serving liquor in the county.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 483 (Senator Edwards) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Allegany County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 15, 2016  
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