

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 643
Economic Matters

(Delegate Ebersole, *et al.*)

Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages - Issuance of Licenses Near Places of
Worship

This bill adds an additional exception to the prohibition against issuing an alcoholic beverages license in Baltimore County to an establishment within 300 feet of a place of worship. The bill exempts the issuance, renewal, or transfer of a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license from the distance requirement, if the licensed premises is (1) within a county revitalization district; (2) zoned BL-CCC; and (3) at least 100 feet from a place of worship.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in Baltimore County revenues due to license fees collected from establishments newly eligible to receive a license under the bill. County expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall but potential meaningful impact for small businesses newly eligible to receive a license.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners may not issue an alcoholic beverages license for an establishment that is within 300 feet of a place of worship or school. The distance from the establishment to the place of worship or

school must be measured from the nearest point of the establishment to the nearest point of the building of the place of worship or school.

The prohibition does not apply to (1) the renewal or transfer of a license if, after the license was issued, a place of worship or school was built within 300 feet of the establishment; (2) the issuance of a temporary license; (3) a transfer that moves the licensed premises within the same building; (4) a transfer of ownership; or (5) the renewal of a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (on-sale) license or a seven-day Class BDR (deluxe restaurant) (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license, if the establishment has a seating capacity of more than 50 and is within a town center.

Background: In fiscal 2015, there were 769 alcoholic beverages licenses issued for use in Baltimore County, of which 317 are Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses. Baltimore County advises that it is not aware of any instances where the existing distance restriction has been an issue during the renewal or transfer of a license, and that it has not received any applications that would require a change to the distance restriction.

There are 17 designated commercial revitalization districts in Baltimore County, including areas in Arbutus, Catonsville, Pikesville, Perry Hall, and Towson. The revitalization district classification makes available specified building improvement loans, commercial revitalization tax credits, and commercial revitalization grants.

BL-CCC zoning refers to an area zoned for small-scale commercial businesses, located within a commercial community core.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 893 (Senator Kasemeyer) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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min/hlb

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