

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 969

(Harford County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Business Establishments Near Schools

This bill authorizes the Harford County Board of License Commissioners to issue an alcoholic beverages license to an establishment *anywhere* in Harford County, if the establishment is not located within 300 feet of a public or private school, effectively decreasing the minimum distance requirement for areas outside of a municipality in the county from 1,000 feet.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in Harford County revenues due to licenses newly issued to previously ineligible establishments. County expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: With specified exceptions, the Harford County Board of License Commissioners may not issue a license to an establishment that is within 1,000 feet of a public or private school building. The distance from the establishment to the school must be measured from the nearest point of the building of the establishment to the nearest point of the school building. The board may issue a license to an establishment *in a municipality* if the establishment is not within 300 feet of a school. A decision by the Harford County Board of Education to locate a public school within 1,000 feet of a previously licensed

establishment may not be the basis for failing to renew, transfer, or upgrade a license. The board may waive the distance requirement, and issue a Class B (on-sale) restaurant license, if the restaurant is located within a shopping center that (1) contains six or more retail stores; (2) contains six or more retail or service stores; or (3) has a gross floor area of over 20,000 square feet, as long as the board takes into account the comments received from parents of children who attend the affected school.

Background: In fiscal 2015, there were a total of 191 alcoholic beverages licenses issued for use in Harford County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2016
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