

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 729

(Delegate Arentz, *et al.*)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Queen Anne's County - Alcoholic Beverages Inspectors - Qualifications, Powers,
and Duties

This bill expands the duties of an alcoholic beverages inspector in Queen Anne's County, and prohibits an individual from qualifying or continuing to serve as an alcoholic beverages inspector if the inspector or any member of the inspector's immediate family has a personal or financial interest, directly or indirectly, in an alcoholic beverages license, a license holder, or premises for which an alcoholic beverages license is issued. The bill also requires an alcoholic beverages inspector to take an oath required by the Maryland Constitution, and clarifies that the inspector has no power of arrest. The bill also requires the Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office to enforce the statewide prohibition against a license holder selling or providing alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of 21.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially impact Queen Anne's County finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Under the bill, an alcoholic beverages inspector is required to:

- investigate all applicants for a license or transfer of a license;
- conduct an unannounced inspection of every licensed premises in the county at least once every 60 days;
- with specified exceptions, enforce all alcoholic beverages laws with the same power as a law enforcement officer of the State;
- investigate all violations of the alcoholic beverages laws and report them to the board;
- submit specified monthly reports in writing to the board; and
- conduct compliance checks relating to the sale of alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of 21 for every licensed premises in accordance with regulations adopted by the board.

Current Law: In Queen Anne’s County, the board is required to appoint an alcoholic beverages inspector with an annual salary of at least \$3,000. The county must provide the inspector a mileage allowance as determined by the county commissioners. The inspector is required to visit and inspect every licensed premises in the county at least once every 60 days.

In Maryland, a license holder or an employee of the license holder may not sell or provide alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of 21.

Background: In fiscal 2016, 84 alcoholic beverages licenses were issued for use in Queen Anne’s County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 819 (Senator Hershey) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Queen Anne’s County; Department of Legislative Services

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