

# Department of Legislative Services

## Maryland General Assembly

### 2017 Session

## **FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

### **First Reader**

## House Bill 1539 (Delegate Beidle)

## Rules and Executive Nominations

## Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class H Licenses

This bill increases, from two to five, the maximum number of Class H alcoholic beverages licenses the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners may issue to a single license holder under specified conditions.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

## Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill does not directly affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** To the extent that the bill results in additional applications for and issuance of Class H alcoholic beverages licenses in Anne Arundel County, county revenues increase due to applicable filing and annual licensing fees. Monitoring of additional licenses can be handled using existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal overall, but potential meaningful impact for small businesses that take advantage of the bill's expansion of the Class H license in Anne Arundel County.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** Generally, only one alcoholic beverages license may be issued to a single licensee in the State, and no more than one license may be issued for the same premises, with specified exceptions. In Anne Arundel County, this limit does not apply to licenses issued for motel-restaurant complexes or hotel-restaurant complexes having 100 rooms or more.

In Anne Arundel County, a Class H beer, wine, and liquor license or a Class H beer and wine license may be issued as a second license to the holder of a Class B (on-sale) license or the holder of a Class H license, as specified. Additionally, multiple Class BLX (deluxe restaurant) licenses may also be issued in the county to a single licensee, as specified, provided a license holder holds no more than 10 total alcoholic beverages licenses in the county.

The annual license fee for a class H beer and light wine license is \$360. The annual license fee for a Class H beer, wine, and liquor license is \$960. The board may only issue a total of 60 Class H licenses as additional licenses.

**Local Revenues:** To the extent that the bill results in additional applications for and issuance of Class H alcoholic beverages licenses in Anne Arundel County, county revenues increase due to applicable filing and annual licensing fees. Monitoring of additional licenses can be handled using existing resources. However, the number of individuals that will seek to obtain or obtain an alcoholic beverages license as a result of the bill, and any corresponding increase in filing and licensing fee revenue, cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

**Background:** According to Anne Arundel County, a total of 207 Class H licenses, including those issued as additional licenses, are currently issued in the county.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 897 (Senator Astle) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Anne Arundel County; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2017  
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