

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 321
Economic Matters

(Dorchester County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Dorchester County - Hurlock - Alcoholic Beverages - Place-of-Worship or School
Distance Restrictions

This bill exempts the issuance of a Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license in the Town of Hurlock from the general prohibition against issuing an alcoholic beverages license to an establishment that is within 300 feet of a place of worship or a public or nonpublic school in Dorchester County. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Minimal increase in Dorchester County revenues due to licenses newly issued to previously ineligible establishments. County expenditures are not materially affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Generally, the Dorchester County Board of License Commissioners may not issue a new license for an establishment that is within 300 feet in a direct line of a place of worship or a public or nonpublic kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school. The distance is measured from the establishment in a direct line to the nearest point of the main building of the place of worship or school. The general prohibition does not apply to (1) the issuance of a license for a premises that was licensed on October 1, 1996; (2) a Class B (on-sale) BWL license for a premises in Cambridge or Secretary; or (3) a temporary license. Dorchester County advises that it is aware of

one establishment in the Town of Hurlock that would benefit from the bill's change to the distance restriction.

In fiscal 2017, 91 alcoholic beverages licenses were issued for use in Dorchester County, including 27 Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 3 (Senator Eckardt) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Dorchester County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 23, 2018
md/tso Third Reader - March 9, 2018

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