

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 411
Economic Matters

(Cecil County Delegation)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Cecil County - Alcoholic Beverages - Alcohol Awareness Program

This bill alters alcohol awareness program requirements in Cecil County and codifies current practice related to penalties for specified violations. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The Cecil County Board of License Commissioners can handle any additional enforcement activity related to alcohol awareness program requirements with existing resources. Revenues are not materially affected.

Small Business Effect: Small businesses may be required to pay for additional supervisory employees to receive alcohol awareness training. However, the total impact is expected to be minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A license holder in Cecil County must ensure that (1) each employee in a supervisory capacity and each bartender be certified by an approved alcohol awareness program and (2) at least one certified individual is present during the hours in which alcoholic beverages may be sold. The bill specifies that a license holder who violates the bill's requirements is subject to, for a first offense, a \$100 fine. For each subsequent offense, the license holder is subject to a fine of up to \$500, a suspension or revocation of the license, or both.

If a period of at least five years has elapsed since a holder of an alcoholic beverages license has been cited for a violation, a subsequent violation must be considered a first offense.

Current Law: Generally, for a premises that is licensed to sell alcoholic beverages with off-sale privileges, or a premises that is licensed with on-sale privileges and sells alcoholic beverages directly to a customer from a bar or service bar, the license holder or specified employees must complete training in an approved alcohol awareness program in order to obtain and retain their alcoholic beverages license. The training program must be approved and certified by the Comptroller, and it must provide information on how alcohol affects a person's body and behavior, the dangers of drinking and driving, refusing service before a customer becomes intoxicated, and determining if a customer is old enough to legally consume alcohol. The training is valid for four years.

Background: In fiscal 2017, 141 alcoholic beverages licenses were issued for use in Cecil County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 1, 2018
mag/tso Third Reader - March 9, 2018

Analysis by: Nathan W. McCurdy

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510