

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 329

(Anne Arundel County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages - Notice of License Application

This bill authorizes the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners to post a completed alcoholic beverages license application online at least 10 days prior to the hearing date instead of posting this notification in a newspaper as currently required. The board must require an applicant to post a suitable notice in a conspicuous place at the location described in the application for at least 10 days. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Beginning in FY 2021, Anne Arundel County expenditures decrease by approximately \$20,000 annually due to reduced newspaper advertising costs. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, prior to any local board of license commissioners in the State approving an application for an alcoholic beverages license, the board must publish a notice of the application two times in two successive weeks in newspapers, as specified.

Local Expenditures: The county advises that it currently spends approximately \$20,000 annually to meet the current newspaper notification requirement for alcoholic beverages application hearings. Under the bill, the county is authorized to post this required information online, which may be done on the existing website at minimal cost. Therefore,

Anne Arundel County expenditures decrease by approximately \$20,000 each year due to reduced newspaper advertising costs.

Background: In fiscal 2019, there were 553 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Anne Arundel County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 180 (Senator Simonaire) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel County; Comptroller's Office; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2020
an/tso Third Reader - March 13, 2020

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