

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 854

(Senator Hershey)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Queen Anne's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Unannounced Visits by Inspectors

This bill alters the requirement for an alcoholic beverages inspector in Queen Anne's County to inspect at unannounced times every licensed premises in the county from at least once every 60 days to at least once every 180 days. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

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

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:

- 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;
- 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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 349 (Delegate Arentz) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2021
an/tso Third Reader - March 19, 2021

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