This bill repeals, in Harford County, the prohibition on the sale of beer on credit to a retail dealer by holders of alcoholic beverages manufacturer’s licenses or wholesaler’s licenses. The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to impact local finances or operations.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal overall, but potential meaningful impact on small businesses that are permitted to purchase or sell beer on terms other than for cash on delivery.

Analysis

**Current Law:** Holders of alcoholic beverages manufacturer’s licenses and wholesaler’s licenses in Harford County may not sell beer to a retail dealer on terms other than cash on delivery. A civil action to enforce or collect a claim for credit extended or to enforce payment of a check given in violation of these prohibitions may not be maintained in the State.

If a holder of a wholesaler’s license does sell beer to a retail dealer on terms other than for cash on delivery, the holder is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding two years or a fine up to $1,000 or both. If a court imposes a penalty on an individual license holder who has obtained a license for or on behalf of a
corporation, a partnership, or an unincorporated association, if the penalty is a fine, the
corporation, partnership, or unincorporated association is liable for the payment of the fine.
If the penalty is imprisonment, the individual license holder must serve the term of
imprisonment.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 2022

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