Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 474	(St. Mary's County Delegation)
Economic Matters	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

St. Mary's County - Leonardtown - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Place of Worship Distance Restriction

This bill allows any alcoholic beverages license to be issued for premises in Leonardtown that are within 300 feet of a place of worship or a public or nonpublic prekindergarten, kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school. The bill repeals an existing limitation that allowed only a Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license to be issued in Leonardtown within that distance. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect St. Mary's County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal overall, but potential meaningful for small businesses that are able to apply for alcoholic beverages licenses in Leonardtown under the bill.

Analysis

Current Law: The St. Mary's County Board of License Commissioners may not issue a license for an establishment that is within 300 feet of a place of worship or a public or nonpublic kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school as measured from the nearest wall of the establishment in a direct line to the nearest point of the main building of the place of worship or the school. This prohibition does not apply to the issuance of a Class B (on-sale) beer, wine, and liquor license for an establishment in Leonardtown or if a place of worship or school locates its building within 300 feet of an already licensed premises.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): St. Mary's County; Town of Leonardtown; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2022
fnu2/tso   Third Reader - March 21, 2022

Analysis by: Michael E. Sousane

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