

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1308
Economic Matters

(Howard County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Notifications
Ho. Co. 14-22

This bill repeals the requirement that the Howard County Board of License Commissioners must publish notice of an alcoholic beverages license application two times in two successive weeks in two newspapers of general circulation in the jurisdiction (or one if there is only one such newspaper available) before the board may approve an application for a license. Instead, the board must (1) post a hearing notice on the board's website for at least 15 days before a hearing and (2) provide notice at least 15 days before a hearing to the Howard County Office of Public Information, which must in turn post the information in the same manner as other public meeting notices. The bill also requires that the alcoholic beverages license *applicant* must post a hearing notice for at least 15 days before specified license application hearings. The notice must be posted at the location described in the license application, as specified. The applicant must submit photographic evidence of the hearing notice to the board. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Howard County expenditures decrease minimally beginning in FY 2023 as the board no longer must post notice in newspapers and inspectors of the board no longer must post notice on-location regarding certain license applications. The board can post the required information on its website, and the public information office can post meeting notices with existing resources. Howard County revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Small businesses that apply for a license will need to post notice of the application at the location described on the application and provide photographic proof of posting, as specified.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The hearing notice posted to the board's website must include (1) the name of the applicant; (2) the type of license for which the application is made; (3) the location described in the application; and (4) the date, time, and place set by the board for a hearing on the application.

An applicant for a new license, a change in the class of license, an extension of the licensed premises, a change of resident agent, a transfer of a license, or a transfer of location must post notice as specified. The notice must be posted at the location described in the application and include the name of the applicant, the type of licenses for which the application is made, the location described in the application, and the date, time, and place set by the board for a hearing on the application. Once posted, the applicant must take a photograph of the hearing notice and submit the photograph to the board before the hearing on the application.

Current Law: Before the board may approve an application for a license, the board must publish notice of the application two times in two successive weeks. The notification must be posted in two newspapers of general circulation in Howard County or, if only one newspaper of general circulation exists, in that newspaper. The notice must state the name of the applicant, the type of license for which the application is made, the location described in the application, and the date, time, and place set by the board for a hearing on the application.

In Howard County, in addition to the newspaper notice, an inspector for the board, in cooperation with the applicant, must post a hearing notice for at least 15 days before the hearing on an application for a new license, a change in the class of license, or an extension of the licensed premises. The notice must be posted at the location described in the application.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2022
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Analysis by: Michael E. Sousane

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