

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 345
Economic Matters

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Finance

Montgomery County - Alcohol Beverage Services - Advisory Board MC 04-23

This bill alters the membership of the Montgomery County Alcohol Beverage Services (ABS) Advisory Board to allow designees of the directors of ABS and the Montgomery County Department of Police, as specified.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect Montgomery County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: ABS operates dispensaries for the wholesale distribution and retail sale of alcoholic beverages in Montgomery County. ABS is separate from the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners, which issues alcoholic beverages licenses. Generally, ABS maintains a monopoly on the wholesale distribution of beer, wine, and liquor and the retail sale of liquor for off-premises consumption. Among other responsibilities, ABS must report at least quarterly to the Montgomery County Executive on recommendations for the improvement of (1) the alcoholic beverages control and enforcement activities of the county and (2) the operations of the dispensary and distribution systems from the standpoint of efficiency, service provided, and convenience to the public.

The ABS Advisory Board is comprised of the following eight members: (1) the director of ABS; (2) the director of the Montgomery County Department of Police; (3) the chair of the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners; and (4) five members who are county residents appointed by the county executive with the consent of the county council.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2023
rh/tso Third Reader - March 20, 2023

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