

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 146
Economic Matters

(Howard County Delegation)

Finance

Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages - Public Hearing
Ho. Co. 13-23

This bill removes the requirement that the Howard County Board of License Commissioners hold a hearing (and that specified notice be provided 15 days before the hearing) for a license holder applying for a change of resident agent when the applicant (1) is seeking to be a resident agent for the same license for which the applicant is a license holder and (2) has previously appeared and been approved at a nonviolation hearing for the same license before the board or the Appointed Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board. The bill also allows the board to hold a public hearing for a change of resident agent if the board determines there is good cause. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Howard County expenditures for hearings related to resident agent changes decrease by up to approximately \$14,000 annually beginning in FY 2024. Howard County revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Regardless of license holder status, the board must hold a public hearing for an application for any change of resident agent. The board must also (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. Applicants for a change of resident agent must also 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.

Local Expenditures: Howard County advises that each hearing for a resident agent change costs approximately \$1,400 including the cost of closed captioning, staffing, and board salaries for the duration of the case. In fiscal 2022, there were 10 hearings for a change in resident agent. Thus, county expenditures related to hearings decrease by up to approximately \$14,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2024.

Small Business Effect: License holders who wish to become resident agents for licenses they hold will no longer require an additional hearing if they previously appeared and been approved at a nonviolation hearing for the same license.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 31, 2023
km/tso Third Reader - March 20, 2023

Analysis by: Michael E. Sousane

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