

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 158  
Economic Matters

(Howard County Delegation)

Finance

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**Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Residency Requirements**  
**Ho. Co. 11-23**

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This bill allows an individual who is a resident of the State to meet the residency requirements for an alcoholic beverages license application in Howard County. The bill also makes related conforming changes including changes to the required information on a license application. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill is not anticipated to materially affect Howard County finances or operations.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. Any resident of the State will be able to apply for an alcoholic beverages license in Howard County.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Generally, an applicant for an alcoholic beverages license must include certain specified information on an application including that the applicant is a resident of the jurisdiction in which the applicant proposes to operate under the license for which the applicant is applying, among other requirements. Generally, applications must include a petition of support signed by at least 10 residents who are owners of real estate and registered voters of the precinct in which the business is to be conducted with specified information. In Howard County, this information must include that at least one of the applicants for a license be a resident of the county.

When an application for an alcoholic beverages license is made on behalf of a partnership, each of the partners must (1) reside in the county or city where the business is located at the time the application is filed and (2) remain a resident of the county or city where the business is located for the duration of time the license is in effect.

When an application for an alcoholic beverages license is made on behalf of a corporation or club (whether incorporated or unincorporated), the license must be applied for and issued to three officers of the corporation or club as individuals. At least one of the three officers must (1) be a resident of the jurisdiction or municipality at the time the application is filed and (2) remain a resident of the jurisdiction or municipality for the duration of the time the license is in effect.

When an application for an alcoholic beverages license is made on behalf of a limited liability company (LLC), the license must be applied for and issued to authorized persons of the LLC as individuals. At least one of the authorized individuals must (1) be a resident of the jurisdiction or municipality at the time the application is filed and (2) remain a resident of the jurisdiction or municipality for the duration of time the license is in effect.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the past three years. See House Bill 1212 of 2022.

**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

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