

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

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

Senate Bill 519  
Finance

(Charles County Senators)

Economic Matters

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**Charles County - Alcoholic Beverages - Unlicensed Establishments**

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This bill specifies that an unlicensed establishment in Charles County, regardless of whether or not it offers or provides live entertainment, is generally prohibited from selling, serving, keeping, or allowing to be consumed alcoholic beverages, setups, or other component parts of mixed alcoholic drinks, as specified. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not expected to materially affect Charles County finances or operations.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary/Current Law:** Under current law, an unlicensed establishment that offers or provides live entertainment may not, at a location under the control or possession of the establishment, sell, serve, keep, or allow to be consumed (1) alcoholic beverages; (2) setups; or (3) other component parts of mixed alcoholic drinks.

Under current law, as long as live entertainment is not offered or provided on more than eight days in a calendar month, the following are exempted from the above prohibition: (1) the room of a registered guest in a hotel or motel; (2) property owned by a volunteer fire company; (3) property owned and operated by a community or homeowners association composed only of property owners in a single subdivision; or (4) property

owned by a religious institution. The bill specifies that as long as alcoholic beverages are not offered, sold, served, kept, or allowed to be consumed more than eight days in a calendar month, the entities listed above are exempted from the specified prohibition.

Under current law, a person that violates the above provisions is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to up to two years' imprisonment or up to a \$10,000 fine or both.

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### **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Charles County; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Office of the Public Defender; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2023  
km/tso Third Reader - March 18, 2023

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