

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 972
Finance

(Senator Lam)

Anne Arundel County - Board of License Commissioners - Alterations

This bill increases, from three to five, the number of members of the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners that the Governor must appoint, alters the appointment process and eligibility requirements for board members, and alters the license application process, as specified. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Anne Arundel County expenditures increase by \$35,000 in FY 2026 for salaries and equipment for two new board members and \$30,000 annually thereafter. Anne Arundel County revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Under the bill, appointments to the board must always be made by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, and no more than two members of the board may be residents of the same State legislative district. An individual may not be appointed to the board if they served as chief inspector within five years of the date the vacancy is publicly announced. The board must also adopt and publish a written policy related to conflicts of interest and the recusal of board members from certain matters.

The board must include and encourage an option for a license or renewal applicant to provide the applicant's race and ethnicity information. By January 15, the board must

annually report to the General Assembly on the racial breakdown of disciplinary actions taken by the board in the previous year.

Current Law: Maryland's 23 counties, Baltimore City, and the City of Annapolis all have boards of license commissioners who issue and enforce retail alcoholic beverages licenses in their jurisdictions.

The Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners has three members, appointed by the Governor. If the Senate is in session, they are appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate as well. Each member of the board must be (1) a resident and voter of the county and (2) an individual of high character, integrity, and recognized business capacity. No more than two members of the board may be of the same political party.

Local Expenditures: The board advises that Anne Arundel County salary expenditures will increase by \$30,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2026. Additionally, a one-time expenditure of \$5,000 will be required to provide laptops and supplies to the new members.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2025
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