

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 744

(Harford County Senators)

Finance

Economic Matters

Harford County – Alcoholic Beverages – Hearing Notice

This bill authorizes the Harford County Board of License Commissioners to publish certain hearing notices as well as decisions on license applications and certain changes to existing licenses in one newspaper of general circulation in Harford County *or* online, as specified. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Harford County finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: Under current law, the board is required to publish notice of a hearing for an alcoholic beverages license application two times in two successive weeks (1) in one newspaper of general circulation published in the county *and* (2) on the board's website. The board is also required to publish its decision on an application for a new license, an upgrade of an existing license, or a change in location of an existing license (1) in one newspaper of general circulation published in the county *and* (2) on the board's website. Finally, the board is required, at least two consecutive weeks before a public hearing, to publish notice of a hearing on all proposed alterations of its regulations (1) in one newspaper of general circulation published in the county *and* (2) on the board's website.

Under the bill, the board is authorized to publish the above notices either in a newspaper of general circulation in the county *or* online, as specified.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 754 (Harford County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 2025
rh/tso
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