

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 486

(St. Mary's County Delegation)

Economic Matters

St. Mary's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Civil Penalty for Sales Violations

This bill increases, from \$1,000 to \$2,500, the maximum civil penalty the St. Mary's County Board of License Commissioners may impose on a person who violates a law relating to licensing the sale of alcoholic beverages in St. Mary's County. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: St. Mary's County revenues may increase, beginning in FY 2026, to the extent that license holders violate the provisions of the bill and additional fines are imposed. St. Mary's County expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The board issues multiple alcoholic beverages licenses in St. Mary's County. Each license affords the license holder certain privileges and responsibilities related to the sale, distribution, and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Unlicensed Establishments

An unlicensed establishment may not (1) sell or serve alcoholic beverages; (2) keep alcoholic beverages; (3) allow a customer to consume or to be served alcoholic beverages that they purchased; or (4) sell, serve, or keep component parts of mixed alcoholic drinks

to a member or guest. An operator of a for-profit establishment that is not licensed may not knowingly allow a customer to bring alcoholic beverages into the establishment.

In St. Mary's County, a person who violates a law relating to licensing the sale of alcoholic beverages is guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction, subject to a fine of up to \$1,000, the revocation of their license, or both.

Local Fiscal Effect: St. Mary's County revenues may increase up to \$1,500 dollars per civil penalty imposed, beginning in fiscal 2026, depending on the number of licensing violations that result in a civil penalty.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): St. Mary's County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 2025
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