

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1229 (Montgomery County Delegation)
Economic Matters

Montgomery County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Health and Safety
Regulations
MC 21-25

This bill requires the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners to (1) gather information about the number and location of retail establishments licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption in the county, and (2) promote the public health and safety of the community based on the impact of the density of retail establishments licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption in the county. The information must be collected each time a new license is issued or an existing license is renewed for a retail establishment, and (2) considered when determining whether to authorize new licenses or renew existing licenses for retail establishments. For each license being considered, the board may hear testimony related to the impact on the health and safety of the public based on the number of licenses issued for off-premises consumption, in addition to any publicly offered concerns. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Montgomery County can handle any additional administrative responsibilities with existing budgeted resources. Montgomery County revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, before deciding whether to approve an application and issue an alcoholic beverages license, a local licensing board must consider (1) the public need and desire for the license; (2) the number and location of existing license holders; (3) the potential effect on existing license holders of the license for which application is made; (4) the potential commonality or uniqueness of the services and products to be offered by the business of the applicant; (5) the impact of the license for which application is made on the health, safety, and welfare of the community, including issues relating to crime, traffic, parking, or convenience; and (6) any other factor that the board considers necessary.

Generally, a local licensing board must deny a license application if the board determines that (1) the granting of the license is not necessary to accommodate the public; (2) the applicant is not a fit person to receive the license; (3) the applicant has made a material false statement in the application; (4) the applicant has acted fraudulently in connection with the application; or (5) if the license is issued, the operation authorized by the license would unduly disturb the peace of the residents of the neighborhood of the location described on the application.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2025
rh/tso

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