

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 398
Finance

(Anne Arundel County Senators)

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. Members must be appointed by the Governor from a list of individuals recommended by the Anne Arundel County House and Senate delegations, as specified. The Governor may request a new list of recommendations at any time. No more than *three* members of the board may belong to the same political party and no more than two members of the board may be residents of the same legislative district. The board must also adopt and publish a written policy related to conflicts of interest and the recusal of board members from board matters. The initial terms of the two additional board members must begin May 2, 2027. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: Anne Arundel County expenditures increase by \$39,995 annually beginning in FY 2027 for salaries, fringe benefits, and incidental expenses for two new board members. Anne Arundel County revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

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, board members are appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate. If the Senate is not in session, appointments are made by the Governor alone. 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: Anne Arundel County advises that county expenditures will increase by \$39,995 annually beginning in fiscal 2027. This estimate includes two \$15,000 salaries for the new board members, as well as fringe benefits and incidental expenses.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 874 (Delegate Simmons) - Government, Labor, and Elections.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2026
jg/tso

Analysis by: Eliana R. Prober

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510