

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1107
Economic Matters

(Calvert County Delegation)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Calvert County - Alcoholic Beverages - Bottle Clubs - Prohibitions

This bill prohibits an establishment known as a bottle club that is not licensed by the Calvert County Board of License Commissioners from giving, serving, dispensing, keeping, or allowing to be consumed on its premises, or on premises under its control or possession, any alcoholic beverages. A violator is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction subject to a fine of up to \$500.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The criminal penalty provision of the bill does not have a material impact on State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The Calvert County Board of License Commissioners and the local law enforcement units can enforce the bill with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In Calvert County, a person who keeps for sale or sells alcoholic beverages and the premises on which alcoholic beverages are kept for sale or sold must be licensed by the Calvert County Board of Licenses Commissioners.

Ten jurisdictions (Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties) restrict or

prohibit the operation of bottle clubs. These clubs are generally defined as establishments that allow patrons to consume alcoholic beverages that were purchased off premises. A person who violates bottle club provisions is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to maximum penalties of two years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$10,000 in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, and Prince George's counties.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Calvert County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 2014
mam/lgc

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