

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1073
Economic Matters

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Montgomery County - Alcoholic Beverages - License Applications - Online
Notice
MC 5-16

This bill authorizes the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners to fulfill a notice requirement related to applications for alcoholic beverages licenses by posting a completed application online at least 14 days prior to the application hearing date instead of publishing the notice in local newspapers.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Montgomery County expenditures decrease by approximately \$46,400 annually due to savings from no longer having to publish information related to alcoholic beverages licensing and hearings in printed newspapers. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Before any Board of License Commissioners in the State approves an application for an alcoholic beverages license, the board must publish a notice of the application two times in two successive weeks. In Baltimore City, the notice must be published in three newspapers of general circulation within the city. In the counties, the notice must be published in two newspapers of general circulation within the county if

possible; however, a county may publish in only one newspaper if there is only one newspaper of general circulation in the county.

A notice must specify (1) the name of the applicant; (2) the kind of license he/she is applying for; (3) the location of the place of business the license is for; and (4) the time and place of the board's hearing on the application. A hearing must take place between 7 and 30 days after the last publication.

Chapter 232 of 2015 authorized the Frederick County Board of License Commissioners to fulfill the notice requirement by posting a completed application and all submitted documents online at least 14 days prior to the application hearing date.

Local Expenditures: The Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners holds hearings on license applications on two days each month, except in April, when hearings are heard on one day. The county currently spends about \$46,400 annually to meet the current newspaper posting requirement. Under the bill, the county is authorized to post the required information online, which will be done on its existing website for little to no additional cost. Therefore, Montgomery County expenditures decrease by approximately \$46,400 each year.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2016
kb/hlb

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