

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Enrolled

Senate Bill 837 (Washington County Senators)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

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Washington County - Alcoholic Beverages - Penalties

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This bill alters the penalties in Washington County for violation of the prohibition on selling or providing alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of 21. Specifically, the bill imposes a \$2,500 maximum fine on a license holder and authorizes the Washington County Board of License Commissioners to suspend or revoke the license. For an employee of a license holder, the maximum fine is set at \$200 for a first offense and \$500 for each subsequent offense. In addition, the bill makes a violation a misdemeanor and removes the mandatory court appearance for a first offense.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in fines collected by the District Court in Washington County.

**Local Effect:** Washington County can implement the bill with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** In Washington County, if a license holder or an employee of a license holder violates the prohibition against selling or providing alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of 21, the board may impose on the employee a fine of up to \$200.

A license holder or an employee of a license holder who is charged with selling alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of 21 must appear in court to answer the charges and may not be required to post bail pending trial in any court in the State.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 1480 (Delegate Parrott) - Economic Matters.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Washington County; Department of Legislative Services.

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2017  
md/tso Third Reader - March 30, 2017  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 30, 2017  
Enrolled - May 5, 2017

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