

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 1008  
Economic Matters

(Harford County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

**Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Publication of Notices**

---

This bill requires the Harford County Board of License Commissioners to publish notice of a hearing for an alcoholic beverages license application two times in two successive weeks (1) in one newspaper of general circulation published in the county and (2) on the board's website. The bill also requires the board to publish its decision on an application for a new license, an upgrade of an existing license, or a change in location of an existing license (1) in one newspaper of general circulation published in the county and (2) on the board's website.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially impact Harford County finances or operations.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Generally, in the State, before a licensing board may approve an application for a license, the local licensing board must publish notice of the application two times in two successive weeks in two newspapers of general circulation in the jurisdiction or in one newspaper if only one newspaper of general circulation exists. The notice is required to include (1) the name of the applicant; (2) the type of license for which

the application is made; (3) the location described in the application; and (4) the date, time, and place of the hearing.

In Harford County, before a hearing for an application for a new license or an upgrade to an existing license, the board is also required to post a notice in a conspicuous location on the exterior of the location described in the application. The notice must be on a sign that measures at least 12 by 18 inches and include (1) the class of license for which the application is made; (2) the name of the applicant; and (3) the date, time, and location for the application hearing. The notice must remain posted for 20 days before the hearing.

The board is required to publish its decision on an application for a new license, an upgrade of an existing license, or a change of location of an existing license in two newspapers of general circulation published in the county. The decision must state the name of the license holder, the type of license, and the location of the premises.

**Background:** In fiscal 2016, 196 alcoholic beverages licenses were issued for use in Harford County.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** Although designated as a cross file, SB 1010 (Senator Jennings - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) is different.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 15, 2017  
fn/tso Third Reader - March 10, 2017

---

Analysis by: Nathan W. McCurdy

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