

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

Senate Bill 180

(Senator Simonaire)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

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Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages - Notice of License Application

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This bill authorizes the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners to post a completed alcoholic beverages license application online at least 10 days prior to the hearing date instead of posting this notification in a newspaper as currently required. The board must require an applicant to post a suitable notice in a conspicuous place at the location described in the application for at least 10 days. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Beginning in FY 2021, Anne Arundel County expenditures decrease by approximately \$20,000 annually due to reduced newspaper advertising costs. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Generally, prior to any local board of license commissioners in the State approving an application for an alcoholic beverages license, the board must publish a notice of the application two times in two successive weeks in newspapers, as specified.

**Local Expenditures:** The county advises that it currently spends approximately \$20,000 annually to meet the current newspaper notification requirement for alcoholic beverages application hearings. Under the bill, the county is authorized to post this required information online, which may be done on the existing website at minimal cost. Therefore,

Anne Arundel County expenditures decrease by approximately \$20,000 each year due to reduced newspaper advertising costs.

**Background:** In fiscal 2019, there were 553 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Anne Arundel County.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 329 (Anne Arundel County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 13, 2020  
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