

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 441
Economic Matters

(Delegate Mosby, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Protest of License Renewal - Zoning
Violations**

This bill repeals a prohibition against the consideration of zoning issues by the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners when hearing a protest filed against the renewal of an alcoholic beverages license. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially impact Baltimore City finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, in the State, a protest against the renewal of an alcoholic beverages license may be made by (1) at least 10 signatories who are residents, commercial tenants who are not holders of or applicants for a license, or real estate owners located in the immediate vicinity of the licensed premises, as specified or (2) the local licensing board, on its own initiative. If a specified protest is filed at least 30 days before the expiration of the license, the local licensing board may not approve the renewal without holding a hearing. The local licensing board must hear and determine the protest in the same manner as it hears and determines an original application.

In Baltimore City, to hear and determine a protest filed against a license renewal, the board must consider only issues with respect to a specific complaint as to the operation of the licensed premises and may not consider zoning issues.

Background: According to the Comptroller's Office, in fiscal 2019, there were 1,208 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Baltimore City.

Local Fiscal Effect: While the bill may result in additional protest of renewal hearings, it is not expected to materially affect Baltimore City operations or finances.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 980 of 2019 passed the House and received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Comptroller's Office; Baltimore City; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2020
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