

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 542

(Anne Arundel County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages - Multiple Licenses

This bill authorizes a license holder to hold up to 10 Class B, Class H, or Class BLX licenses in any combination in Anne Arundel County, as specified. Under the bill, a license holder may hold a license by direct or indirect interest. An indirect interest in a license may *only* be evidenced by specified relationships involving the license holder and another license holder or the license holder and an applicant for a license. The bill authorizes an interest held or controlled by a franchise or chain store operation to have an interest in more than one Class B, Class H, or Class BLX license, as specified. The bill also repeals restrictions on multiple licenses in specified areas in Anne Arundel County and makes technical changes. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Anne Arundel County revenues increase to the extent additional licenses are issued under the bill. Anne Arundel County can monitor any additional licenses with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Overall minimal, but potentially meaningful for small businesses that obtain additional licenses under the bill.

Analysis

Current Law: In Anne Arundel County, a license holder is prohibited from holding more than 10 licenses of any class, as specified. A license holder cannot hold direct interest in more than 4 licenses, and the remaining license can only be held indirectly, as specified.

The board may only issue one Class B, Class BLX, or Class H license to a person for a restaurant located anywhere in Anne Arundel County unless otherwise authorized.

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

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 346 (Senator Beidle, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2020
rh/tso Third Reader - March 17, 2020
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 17, 2020

Analysis by: Donavan A. Ham

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