

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 346 (Senator Beidle, *et al.*)
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 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: HB 542 (Delegate Carey) - 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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