

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 1509  
Economic Matters

(Howard County Delegation)

---

**Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages - Alcoholic Beverages Inspectors**  
**Ho. Co. 32-20**

---

This bill requires the Howard County Police Department to employ inspectors to assist the Howard County Board of License Commissioners. The bill specifies that the chief of the county police department must have final selection authority over the hiring of the inspectors. An inspector who investigates an alcoholic beverages license violation is authorized to issue a civil citation as provided in § 10-119 of the Criminal Law Article. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Howard County can implement the bill with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The chief of the county police department must provide a sworn member of the police department as an inspector to assist the board in carrying out their responsibilities and in enforcing the law.

Alcoholic beverages inspectors in Anne Arundel, Frederick, Harford, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Talbot counties have the power to issue civil citations for alcoholic beverages violations. Alcoholic beverages inspectors generally (1) must have

successfully completed training in the proper use of arrest authority and pertinent police procedures and (2) may not carry firearms in the performance of their duties.

**Background:** In fiscal 2019, there were 289 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Howard County.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2020  
mr/tso

---

Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

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