

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1191
Economic Matters

(Howard County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Howard County – Alcoholic Beverages – Alcoholic Beverages Inspectors
Ho. Co. 03-21

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, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Howard County expenditures increase to hire additional inspectors as discussed below. Revenues not affected. **This bill may impose a mandate on a unit of local government.**

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 multiple counties in Maryland 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.

Local Expenditures: Howard County advises county expenditures will increase to hire and train new inspectors under the bill to assist the board with enforcement; however, the bill does not specify how many new inspectors can be hired or a salary for these inspectors. Since the Howard County Police Department is unlikely to remove a sworn officer currently serving as an inspector from the payroll, expenditures will strictly increase under the bill with no offsetting reductions.

County expenditures increase under the bill based on the number of new inspectors hired, as well as the salary of each inspector. The county may also incur additional costs associated with training each new inspector.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1509 of 2020 received a hearing in the House Economic Matters Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Howard County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2021
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