

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

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

House Bill 1044 (Washington County Delegation)  
Economic Matters

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**Washington County - Business Licenses - Zoning Certification Requirement**

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This bill prohibits the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Washington County from issuing a business license for the first time unless the applicant submits to the clerk a certification from specified entities that the location of the business for which the license is sought has proper zoning. A related provision prohibits the clerk from endorsing a change in the place of a business until the licensee meets the zoning certification requirement for a license issued for the first time.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The change is procedural in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None. The change is procedural in nature and does not directly affect local governmental finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The zoning certification that is required in Washington County for the clerk to issue a license for the first time, or to endorse a change in the place of business, must be from the county planning commission or, if the business is located in a municipal corporation, from the municipal corporation.

**Current Law:** Generally, an applicant for a general business license (in each county) must submit an application to the clerk of the court, submit a receipt or certificate for certain

taxes, and pay the applicable license fee. Each application for a license must be verified in the way and contain the information that the Comptroller requires. If a specific place for doing business is stated in a license, the licensee may change the place of business only if the clerk endorses the change on the license.

There are limited exceptions to these general requirements in individual local jurisdictions, including in Calvert County, which has zoning certification requirements similar to those imposed by the bill.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 1653 of 2020 was referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Washington County; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 2021  
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