

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 964  
Finance

(Senator Ready)

Economic Matters

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**Carroll County – Alcoholic Beverages Licenses – Alcohol Awareness Training**

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This bill requires, in Carroll County, a holder of a Class B or Class D alcoholic beverages license or an individual designated by the license holder who is in a supervisory capacity to (1) be certified by an alcohol awareness training program and (2) be present on the licensed premises during the hours in which alcoholic beverages may be sold. The bill also establishes specified penalties that include a fine of \$100 for the first offense and a fine up to \$500 and/or suspension or revocation of the alcoholic beverages license for subsequent offenses. The bill requires at least one individual who is listed on the license as a license holder to maintain a current certificate reflecting the completion of an alcohol awareness program while the individual is listed on the license. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** Carroll County can handle any additional enforcement activity with existing resources. Carroll County revenues are not materially affected.

**Small Business Effect:** The requirement to have a certified individual on the licensed premises at all times may require small businesses to pay for employees to receive alcohol awareness training. However, the total impact is expected to be minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Generally, alcoholic beverages license holders are subject to alcohol awareness training requirements under State law. The program includes instruction on how alcohol affects an individual's behavior and body, provides education on the dangers of

drinking and driving, and defines effective methods to (1) determine whether a customer is under the legal drinking age; (2) serve customers to minimize the chance of intoxication; and (3) stop service before a customer becomes intoxicated.

Under current law, each local licensing board generally must enforce this requirement. Violators are subject to a fine of \$100 for the first offense and subsequent violations are subject to a fine up to \$500 and/or suspension or revocation of the alcoholic beverages license.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 21, 2024  
km/tso Third Reader - March 15, 2024  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 15, 2024

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Analysis by: Donovan A. Ham

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