

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 710
Economic Matters

(Charles County Delegation)

Charles County - Alcoholic Beverages - Alcohol Awareness Certification

This bill requires, in Charles County, that the license holder, or an individual designated by the license holder who is employed in a supervisory capacity, must be certified by an approved alcohol awareness program and be present on the licensed premises at all times when alcoholic beverages may be served. The bill specifies that a license holder who violates the bill's requirements is subject to, for a first offense, a \$100 fine. For each subsequent offense, the license holder is subject to a fine of up to \$500, or a suspension or revocation of the license, or both.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The Charles County Board of License Commissioners can handle any additional enforcement activity with existing resources. 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 supervisory employees to receive alcohol awareness training. However, the total impact is expected to be minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, for a premises that is licensed to sell alcoholic beverages with an off-sale privilege or a premises that is licensed with on-sale privileges and sells alcoholic beverages directly to a customer from a bar or service bar, the license holder or specified employees must complete training in an approved alcohol awareness program in order to obtain and retain their alcoholic beverages license. The training program must be approved and certified by the Comptroller, and it must provide information on how alcohol affects a person's body and behavior, the dangers of drinking and driving, refusing service before a customer becomes intoxicated, and determining if a customer is old enough to legally consume alcohol. The training is valid for four years.

Background: In fiscal 2016, 175 alcoholic beverages licenses were issued in Charles County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2017
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