

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 959
Economic Matters

(Delegate Mosby, *et al.*)

Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - License Renewals

This bill authorizes the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners to consider, when determining whether to renew an alcoholic beverages license and/or whether to attach any conditions on a renewed license, the performance of the license holder during the four-year period preceding the renewal application date. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Baltimore City operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, in the State, an alcoholic beverages licensee must, in order to renew a license, file a written application with the local licensing board that states whether the facts in the original application have changed and, if so, in what manner. A local licensing board generally must consider an application for the renewal of an alcoholic beverages license in the same manner as for an original application. A local licensing board generally must deny a renewal application if it determines that the licensee is not qualified to obtain a license renewal but must renew a license for which the licensee is qualified.

A protest against a license renewal may be made by (1) at least 10 signatories who are residents, commercial tenants, or real estate owners located in the immediate vicinity of the licensed premises, as specified, or (2) the local licensing board, on its own initiative. If

a specified protest is filed at least 30 days before the expiration of the license, the local licensing board may not approve the renewal without holding a hearing. The local licensing board must hear and determine the protest in the same manner as it hears and determines an original application. In Baltimore City, the board must consider only issues with respect to a specific complaint as to the operation of the licensed premises and may not consider zoning issues.

Background: According to the Comptroller's Office, in fiscal 2018, there were 1,221 alcoholic beverages licenses issued in Baltimore City.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2019
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