

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 969 (Delegates Impallaria and Lisanti)  
Economic Matters

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Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Business Establishments Near Schools

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This bill decreases the minimum distance requirement in Harford County for purposes of issuing alcoholic beverages licenses. Under the bill, the minimal distance required between an establishment licensed to sell alcoholic beverages and a public or private school building decreases from 1,000 feet to 300 feet.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal increase in Harford County revenues due to licenses newly issued to previously ineligible establishments. County expenditures are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** With specified exceptions, the Harford County Board of License Commissioners may not issue a license to an establishment that is within 1,000 feet of a public or private school building. The distance from the establishment to the school must be measured from the nearest point of the building of the establishment to the nearest point of the school building. The board may issue a license to an establishment *in a municipality* if the establishment is not within 300 feet of a school. A decision by the Harford County Board of Education to locate a public school within 1,000 feet of a previously licensed establishment may not be the basis for failing to renew, transfer, or upgrade a license. The

board may waive the distance requirement, and issue a Class B (on-sale) restaurant license, if the restaurant is located within a shopping center that (1) contains six or more retail stores; (2) contains six or more retail or service stores; or (3) has a gross floor area of over 20,000 square feet, as long as the board takes into account the comments received from parents of children who attend the affected school.

**Background:** In fiscal 2015, there were a total of 191 alcoholic beverages licenses issued for use in Harford County.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Harford County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 17, 2016  
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