

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 1171 (Harford County Senators)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Waiver From School Distance
Restrictions**

This bill restricts the circumstances in which the Harford County Board of License Commissioners may waive the distance restrictions prohibiting the issuance of an alcoholic beverages license near a public or private school building and issue a Class B (on-sale) restaurant license. The bill requires that the restaurant applying for the license be located on a parcel of land that faces one or more State highways on two sides, in addition to existing requirements, in order to be eligible for a waiver.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect Harford County finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, 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 board may issue a license to an establishment in Harford County, as well as in a municipality in Harford County, if the establishment is not within 300 feet of a school. The board may waive the distance requirements, 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.

In Harford County, the distance from an establishment to a school must be measured from the nearest point of the building of the establishment to the nearest point of the school building. 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.

“State highway” means any public highway owned by the State.

Background: In fiscal 2016, 196 alcoholic beverages licenses were issued for use in Harford County, including 24 Class B beer and wine licenses, and 83 Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 13, 2017
mm/tso

Analysis by: Nathan W. McCurdy

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