

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 429 (Delegate Oaks)  
Economic Matters

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**Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages Establishments - Weekend Closing Hours**

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This bill extends the hours that alcoholic beverages may be sold in certain licensed establishments in Baltimore City from 2 a.m. until 3 a.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Eligible establishments must hold either a Class B-D-7 license or a Class B beer, wine, and liquor license. In addition, the establishments must have been issued an adult entertainment permit from the city or be located in a specified area of Baltimore City near the Inner Harbor. The bill also allows individuals to consume alcoholic beverages on the premises of these establishments until 4 a.m.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Baltimore City expenditures increase by approximately \$5,200 in FY 2011 and by \$7,500 annually thereafter for additional enforcement activities resulting from extended hours in certain establishments. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful effect on establishments affected by the bill, to the extent that longer hours of operation generate increased revenues.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The specified area of Baltimore City near the Inner Harbor includes an area bounded (1) on the north by East Pleasant Street, from North Charles Street to the Fallsway; (2) on the east by the Fallsway and President Street to Lancaster Street; (3) on

the west by North Charles Street and South Charles Street; and (4) on the south by Cross Street, from South Charles Street to Pierside Drive.

**Current Law:** Class B-D-7 licensees and Class B beer, wine, and liquor licensees in Baltimore City must close at 2 a.m. on weekends.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The bill extends hours of operation for many establishments in Baltimore City, including 33 establishments with active adult entertainment licenses. The Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners indicates that inspectors will need to be available to respond to night time complaints for six additional hours each week. Inspectors currently respond to night time complaints, however, coverage ends at approximately 2:15 a.m. The extended hours proposed by the bill would result in additional night shifts and additional personnel assigned due to the number of establishments covered in the bill. As a result, expenditures for enforcement activities will increase by approximately \$5,200 in fiscal 2011. This estimate is based on liquor board inspectors working an additional six hours per week for 36 weeks at approximately \$18 per hour.

Future year expenditures will increase by about \$7,500 annually to account for full-year enforcement activities. It is also anticipated that there may be more complaints to the Liquor Board 311 complaint system and more hearings concerning any violations, but this additional work would be absorbed into the existing agency positions.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 2010  
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