

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 714
Economic Matters

(Harford County Delegation)

Finance

Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Performing Arts Nonprofit Organization
License - Record-Keeping Requirements

This bill repeals obsolete references to the Comptroller relating to recordkeeping and reporting requirements for a performing arts nonprofit organization beer, wine, and liquor license in Harford County and repeals the Comptroller's previous authority to temporarily suspend the license without a hearing. The bill authorizes, rather than requires, the Harford County Board of License Commissioners to summon a performing arts nonprofit organization beer, wine, and liquor license holder for a hearing and impose a fine, as specified. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Harford County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: If a report or an investigation by the board, a board officer, the Executive Director of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC), or any other person indicates a performing arts nonprofit organization beer, wine, and liquor license holder is violating specified requirements of the license, the board *may* summon the license holder to a hearing. If the charges are sustained after the hearing, the board *may* impose a fine between \$250 and \$2,000 and *may* suspend or revoke the license holder's license.

Current Law: Chapter 12 of 2019 established the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC, the predecessor to ATCC), beginning June 1, 2020 (Chapter 359 of 2020 delayed the effective date to January 1, 2021), and transferred personnel, powers, duties, and responsibilities that relate to the regulation of alcoholic beverages and tobacco from the Comptroller (specifically the Field Enforcement Division (FED)) to ATC. Chapter 12 specified that all duties and responsibilities associated with FED's alcoholic beverages and tobacco regulation functions must continue under ATC. Chapters 254 and 255 of 2023 (Cannabis Reform Act) reconstituted ATC as ATCC and clarified the powers and duties of ATCC related to alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis regulation and enforcement.

Chapters 1011 and 1012 of 2024 established a performing arts nonprofit organization license in Harford County. The license authorizes the holder to sell or serve beer, wine, and liquor at retail for on-premises consumption at up to three locations designated at the time of application. The Acts established various recordkeeping and reporting requirements for license holders and authorized the Comptroller to immediately suspend for a maximum of 30 days the license of a license holder who fails to comply with these requirements, as specified. If a report or an investigation indicates that the license holder violated specified license requirements, the board must summon the license holder and conduct a hearing. Violators are subject to a fine between \$250 and \$2,000 and may have their license suspended or revoked.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 745 (Harford County Senators) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission; Comptroller's Office; Harford County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2025
km/tso Third Reader - March 18, 2025

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