

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 456 (Howard County Delegation)  
Government, Labor, and Elections

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**Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages - Gift Basket Permit**  
**Ho. Co. 2-26**

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This bill establishes a gift basket permit in Howard County. The bill authorizes the Howard County Board of License Commissioners to issue the permit to a person (1) whose primary business is the sale and delivery of flowers; (2) whose business includes the sale and delivery of gift baskets of flowers, food, or other items; and (3) who does not hold another alcoholic beverages license or permit. The board is prohibited from issuing a permit for use in conjunction with or on the premises of a chain store, supermarket, or discount house. A permit holder may sell and deliver, to consumers of a legal drinking age located in the county, gift baskets containing specified volumes of beer, wine, or liquor products, purchased from a retail license holder. The permit holder must maintain records and submit reports required by the board. The annual permit fee is \$100. The bill also establishes that the prohibition against issuing alcoholic beverages licenses to establishments within specified distances from public schools does not apply to the issuance of a gift basket permit. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Howard County revenues increase from additional permit fees, as discussed below. Howard County can monitor additional permits with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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## Analysis

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Howard County revenues increase by \$100 annually for each gift basket permit issued the bill. Howard County advises there are 15 florists in the county that may apply for the gift basket permit. For illustrative purposes only, if 15 individuals apply for the permit, Howard County revenues increase by \$1,500 annually. Any increase in inspections and enforcement activity can likely be absorbed with existing county resources.

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### Additional Information

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

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 2026  
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