Bill Topic: 500-FEET-FROM-SCHOOL LIMIT FOR BEER CODE RETAILERS

Summary of Fiscal Impact:
- State Revenue
- State Expenditure (minimal)
- State Transfer
- TABOR Refund
- Local Government (minimal)
- Statutory Public Entity

The bill applies distance-from-school restrictions to fermented malt beverage retailer licensees. Beginning in the current FY 2017-18, the bill increases state and local government workload on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary:
No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status:
The fiscal note reflects the signed bill; however, because Senate Bill 18-243 became law, the bill does not take effect. See Effective Date Section.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, a state or local liquor licensing authority may not receive or act on an application for a liquor license issued under the Colorado Liquor Code for a location that is within 500 feet of a school, university, or seminary. There are limited exceptions to the prohibition and a local government may eliminate or modify those distance restrictions. The bill applies the same distance restrictions, exceptions, and local government authority to applications for new fermented malt beverage (FMB) retailer licenses, which are issued under the Colorado Beer Code.

Background

The Colorado Liquor Code contains provisions related to the regulation of malt liquor (full-strength beer), wine, and spirits. The Colorado Beer Code contains provisions related to the regulation of fermented malt beverages, and includes licenses allowing the sale of fermented malt beverages for on-premises, off-premises, and on/off premises consumption.

Under current law, prior to January 1, 2019, FMB retailers may only sell 3.2 percent alcohol by weight beer. Beginning January 1, 2019, fermented malt beverages are defined as full-strength beer, allowing FMB retailer licensees to sell full-strength beer.
State Expenditures

The bill increases the workload for the Department of Revenue (DOR) and Judicial Department by a minimal amount, beginning in the current FY 2017-18. The bill increases the workload for the Liquor Enforcement Division in the DOR to update rules, forms, internal policies, and trainings for stakeholders, and for the Judicial Department to conduct any additional judicial review of local government findings related to the distance of a proposed location from a school. The workload increase can be accomplished within the current appropriations of each department.

Local Government

The bill increases the workload for local licensing authorities to adjust their procedures to accommodate the new distance requirements for FMB retailers. For any local licensing authority that modifies the distance requirements, the bill also increases the workload to adopt the ordinance, rule, or regulation.

Effective Date

The bill was signed by the Governor on May 24, 2018; however, the bill takes effect only if Senate Bill 18-243 did not become law. Senate Bill 18-243 became law, therefore, this bill does not take effect.

State and Local Government Contacts

| Counties | Judicial | Municipalities | Revenue |

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit: leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes.