

CHAPTER 608

(House Bill 483)

AN ACT concerning

Prince George's County – Alcoholic Beverages Licenses – Advisory Commission to Study Luxury Type Restaurants

PG 313-07

FOR the purpose of establishing an Advisory Commission to Study Luxury Type Restaurants in Prince George's County; providing for the membership, chair, compensation, staff, and duties of the Advisory Commission; requiring the Advisory Commission to issue a certain report with recommendations by a certain date to certain legislative delegations and the Prince George's County Executive; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of an Advisory Commission to Study Luxury Type Restaurants in Prince George's County.

Preamble

WHEREAS, A restaurant in Prince George's County that qualifies as a luxury type restaurant is entitled to be issued a Class BLX license by the Board of License Commissioners for Prince George's County and may provide alcoholic beverages for consumption on the licensed premises only; and

WHEREAS, To qualify as a luxury type restaurant, a restaurant must have a minimum seating capacity of 100 persons and a minimum capital investment of \$800,000 for dining room facilities and kitchen equipment, excluding the cost of land, buildings, or a lease; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds it beneficial to create an Advisory Commission to study the demand in the County for luxury type restaurants, whether more luxury type restaurants are needed, and how an increase in the number of luxury type restaurants would affect existing premises licensed to sell alcoholic beverages in the County; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) There is an Advisory Commission to Study Luxury Type Restaurants in Prince George's County.

(b) The Advisory Commission consists of the following ~~11~~ 12 members:

(1) one member of the Prince George's County House delegation, appointed by the chair of the delegation;

(2) one member of the Prince George's County Senate delegation, appointed by the chair of the delegation;

(3) one representative of the Prince George's County Executive;

(4) one representative of the Prince George's County Municipal Association;

(5) one representative of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation;

(6) ~~one representative~~ three representatives of the restaurant industry, appointed by the Prince George's County Executive;

(7) ~~four representatives~~ one representative of the retail alcoholic beverages industry in the County, appointed by the Prince George's County Executive; ~~and~~

(8) one representative of the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce, appointed by the president of the Chamber of Commerce;

(9) one representative of the Prince George's Black Chamber of Commerce, appointed by the president of the Black Chamber of Commerce; and

(10) one member of the Board of License Commissioners for Prince George's County, to be designated by the chair of the Board.

(c) The Advisory Commission shall designate a chair from among its members.

(d) A member of the Advisory Commission:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations as provided in the State budget.

(e) The Advisory Commission shall study:

(1) the level of demand by residents and visitors in various parts of Prince George's County for luxury type restaurants;

(2) whether more luxury type restaurants should be encouraged to locate in certain parts of the County and, if so, ways that this might be done; and

(3) how an increase in the number of luxury type restaurants would affect existing premises licensed to sell alcoholic beverages in the County.

(f) The Board of License Commissioners shall provide staff for the Advisory Commission.

(g) On or before September 1, 2008, the Advisory Commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Office of the County Executive and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Prince George's County Senate and House delegations of the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of May 31, 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 17, 2007.