HOUSE BILL 324

A1, D5 HB 422/21 – ECM CF SB 72

By: Delegates D. Barnes, Attar, Charles, Feldmark, Fennell, J. Lewis, Palakovich Carr, Patterson, and Washington

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2022

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

| 1 | AN | ACT | concerning |
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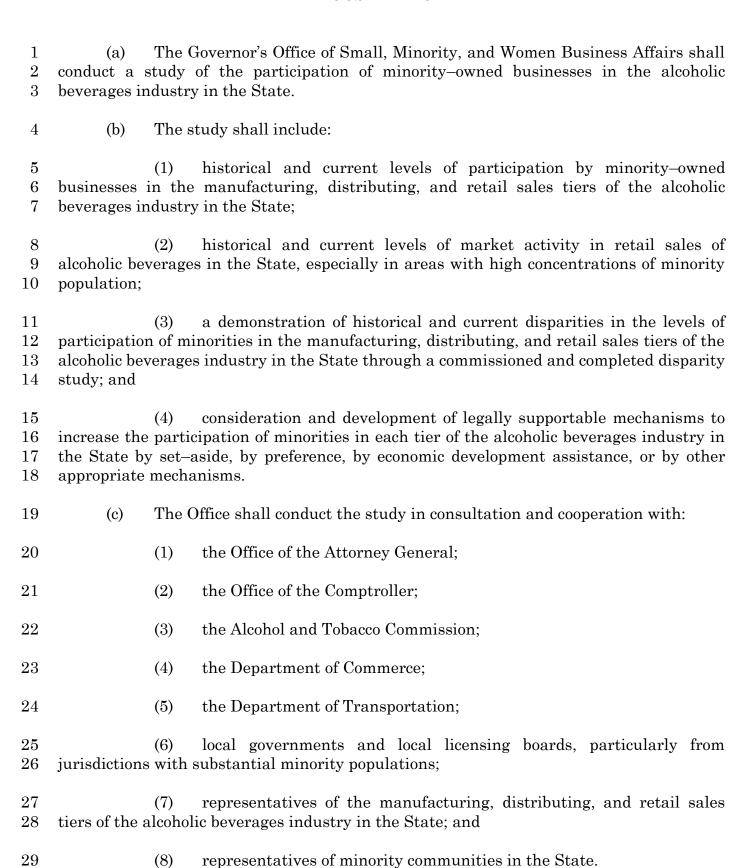
2 Minority Participation in the Alcoholic Beverages Industry – Study

- FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs to conduct a study concerning the alcoholic beverages industry in the State; requiring the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Transportation to provide staff for the study; and generally relating to the alcoholic beverages industry and minority communities.
- 8 Preamble
- WHEREAS, Since the end of Prohibition in 1933, the alcoholic beverages industry has been dominated by a small number of companies, particularly in the area of distilled spirits; and
- WHEREAS, Although minorities, particularly black Americans, constitute a considerable portion of the consumers of alcoholic beverages, they are underrepresented in the alcoholic beverages industry as manufacturers, distributors, and retailers; and
 - WHEREAS, Because of the sensitivity to community values and concerns that belonging to a minority community brings to economic activity in the community, meaningful participation by minorities in the alcoholic beverages industry, particularly in the distribution and retail sectors, may provide a substantial benefit to minority communities and to the State at large; and
- WHEREAS, Under federal precedent, state—encouraged participation in an industry through a set—aside or preference system requires demonstration of a disparity in the industry based on historical discrimination; now, therefore,
- 23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, 24 That:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.





30 (d) The Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Transportation 31 shall provide staff for the study.

(e) On or before January 1, 2023, the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2023, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.