

HOUSE BILL 415

A2

6lr1019

By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2026

Assigned to: Economic Matters and Government, Labor, and Elections

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class A Beer and Class A Beer**
3 **and Wine Licenses – Retail Grocery Establishments**

4 **PG 304–26**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing a certain exception in Prince George's County to the
6 prohibition against issuing alcoholic beverages licenses for use in conjunction with
7 or on the premises of supermarkets; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners
8 for Prince George's County to issue a Class A beer or Class A beer and wine license
9 for use in conjunction with or on the premises of certain retail grocery establishments
10 located in certain areas of the county; establishing that a certain prohibition against
11 being issued or using more than one alcoholic beverages license does not apply to a
12 license issued under this Act; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses
13 in Prince George's County.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
16 Section 4–203, 4–205, and 26–102
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
21 Section 26–1501(c) and 26–1509
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

24 BY adding to
25 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
26 Section 26–1509.1
27 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

4–203.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Division II of this article, Title 3, Title 4, or Title 5 of this division, or subsection (b) of this section, more than one license may not be issued:

(1) to an individual; or

(2) for the use of a partnership, a corporation, an unincorporated association, or a limited liability company.

(b) (1) A single individual may hold Class B beer, wine, and liquor licenses or Class BLX or equivalent licenses issued by different local licensing boards only for restaurants, hotels, or motels.

(2) The number of licenses that a single individual may hold is limited only by the cap imposed by each local licensing board on the licenses that the local licensing board issues.

(3) The licenses may be issued for the use of:

(i) the license holder; or

(ii) a partnership, a corporation, an unincorporated association, or a limited liability company.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in Division II of this article or Title 3, Title 4, or Title 5 of this division, an individual may not be issued in the State more than one Class A, Class C, or Class D license for the use of:

(1) that individual; or

(2) a partnership, a corporation, an unincorporated association, or a limited liability company.

4–205.

(a) This section does not apply to:

(1) an establishment that already holds a Class A, Class B, or Class D beer license, beer and wine license, or beer, wine, and liquor license; or

(2) a license holder that sells alcoholic beverages at discount prices.

(b) A local licensing board may not issue a Class A, Class B, or Class D beer license, beer and wine license, or beer, wine, and liquor license for use in conjunction with or on the premises of:

(1) a chain store;

(2) a supermarket; or

(3) a discount house.

26–102.

This title applies only in Prince George’s County.

26–1501.

(c) The following sections of Title 4, Subtitle 2 (“Issuance or Denial of Local Licenses”) of Division I of this article apply in the county:

(1) § 4–202 (“Authority of local licensing boards”), in addition to §§ 26–1502 and 26–1503 of this subtitle;

(2) § 4–203 (“Prohibition against issuing multiple licenses to individual or for use of entity”), subject to [§ 26–1505] **§§ 26–1505 AND 26–1509.1** of this subtitle and Subtitle 13, Part III and Subtitle 16, Part II of this title;

(3) § 4–204 (“Prohibition against issuing multiple licenses for same premises”), subject to § 26–1505 of this subtitle and Subtitle 13, Part III of this title;

(4) § 4–205 (“Chain store, supermarket, or discount house”), subject to [§ 26–1509] **§§ 26–1509 AND 26–1509.1** of this subtitle;

(5) § 4–208 (“Notice of license application required”), subject to § 26–1512 of this subtitle;

(6) § 4–209 (“Hearing”), in addition to § 26–1511 of this subtitle;

(7) § 4–211 (“License forms; effective date; expiration”), in addition to § 26–1508 of this subtitle;

(8) § 4–212 (“License not property”), subject to § 26–1506 of this subtitle; and

(9) § 4-213 ("Replacement licenses"), subject to § 26-1517 of this subtitle.

26-1509.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section **AND § 26-1509.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE**, the Board may not issue a license that has an off-sale privilege to:

(1) an establishment commonly known as a chain store, supermarket, or discount house; or

(2) a franchisor, franchisee, or concessionaire of the establishment.

(b) An establishment described in subsection (a) of this section that held a license on July 1, 1973:

(1) may continue to hold the license; and

(2) at the discretion of the Board, may change the class of the license.

26-1509.1.

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN AREAS OF THE COUNTY LOCATED INSIDE THE CAPITAL BELTWAY.

(B) THE BOARD MAY ISSUE A CLASS A BEER LICENSE OR CLASS A BEER AND WINE LICENSE TO AN APPLICANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION FOR USE IN CONJUNCTION WITH OR ON THE PREMISES OF A SELF-SERVICE RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT:

(1) THAT IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED OR PART OF A CORPORATION OPERATING A CHAIN OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS UNDER THE SAME TRADE NAME;

(2) THAT OFFERS FOR SALE A FULL LINE OF FOOD PRODUCTS IN AT LEAST SIX OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

(I) FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES;

(II) FRESH AND UNCOOKED MEAT, POULTRY, AND SEAFOOD;

(III) DAIRY PRODUCTS;

(IV) CANNED FOODS;

(V) FROZEN FOODS;

1 (VI) DRY GROCERIES AND BAKED GOODS; OR

2 (VII) NONALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES;

3 (3) THAT HAS A MINIMUM OF 50% OF THE SQUARE FOOTAGE OF THE
4 PUBLIC AREA OF THE RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT DEDICATED TO THE SALE OF FOOD
5 OR BEVERAGES LISTED IN ITEM (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND

6 (4) FOR WHICH AT LEAST 50% OF THE AVERAGE MONTHLY GROSS
7 RECEIPTS ARE DERIVED FROM THE SALE OF FOOD PRODUCTS.

8 (C) THE PROHIBITIONS AGAINST ONE PERSON OR ENTITY BEING ISSUED OR
9 USING MORE THAN ONE LICENSE UNDER § 4-203 OF THIS ARTICLE DO NOT APPLY
10 TO A CLASS A LICENSE ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION.

11 (D) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE BOARD SHALL REPORT
12 TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE
13 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE NUMBER OF LICENSES
14 ISSUED AND LICENSE APPLICATIONS PENDING UNDER THIS SECTION AND THE
15 AVERAGE MONTHLY PERCENTAGE OF GROSS RECEIPTS DERIVED FROM THE SALE OF
16 FOOD PRODUCTS FOR EACH LICENSE HOLDER DURING THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
18 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of June 30, 2031,
19 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
20 of no further force and effect.