

# **HB124 Alcoholic Beverages – License Applications –**

Uploaded by: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus

Position: FAV



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair  
Delegate Brian M. Crosby, Vice Chair  
Economic Matters, Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: 2/1/24  
RE: HB124 Alcoholic Beverages – License Applications –  
Residency Requirements

### **The MLLC supports HB124 Alcoholic Beverages – License Applications – Residency Requirements, 2024**

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB124.

As of 2015, Baltimore, Howard, and Prince George’s counties did not require alcohol license applicants to be citizens.<sup>1</sup> Yet most Maryland jurisdictions have a citizenship requirement for licensees. This bill intends to eliminate barriers for small business owners and Latino and immigrant entrepreneurs by increasing economic empowerment, business opportunities, and community belongingness.

Although Maryland was ranked the second-best state for minority entrepreneurs by a recent Lendio study, researchers found that minority entrepreneurs, regardless of state, disproportionately face barriers when starting and growing their businesses.<sup>2</sup> The Census Bureau’s 2021 Annual Business Survey showed that Hispanic-owned businesses grew 8.2% since 2010, yielded \$472.3 billion in annual receipts, and employed 2.9 million employees.<sup>3</sup> However, food service is not among the top sectors for Hispanic ownership.

The purpose of this bill is to repeal and reenact Article - Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis, Section 4-109(a) with the aim of broadening eligibility for applying for an alcoholic beverage license to include legal permanent residents of the United States.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB124.

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<sup>1</sup> [Jacobs, Danny. 2015. Noncitizenship alone not enough to deny liquor license, judge rules. The Daily Record.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Lendio. 2023. Best and Worst States for Minority Entrepreneurs.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Lee, Lynda. 2023. Minority Business Ownership Differs by Sector. United States Census Bureau.](#)

**HB124\_Testimony\_Favorable.pdf**

Uploaded by: TUSHAR VADADORIYA

Position: FAV

**Favorable  
Alcoholic Beverages - License Application- Residency Requirements**

Tushar Vadadoriya  
JB Liquors  
5842 Silver Hill Road,  
District Heights, MD 20747

I am writing to express my strong support for the legislative amendment regarding Alcoholic Beverages, specifically the changes proposed in HB124. This bill represents a significant step forward in providing fair and equitable opportunities for permanent legal residents in the state's alcoholic beverage industry.

As an engaged member of our community Asian American Retailer Association I understand the importance of fostering an inclusive economy. Immigrants are a vital part of our state's entrepreneurial landscape, yet they often face barriers in sectors like the liquor store market. By allowing permanent legal residents to hold an alcoholic beverage license, HB124 opens doors for these community members to contribute more significantly to our economy.

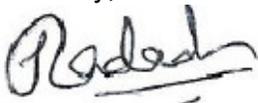
The liquor store industry, with its substantial annual sales, presents an untapped opportunity for immigrant entrepreneurs. Not only does this bill enable them to participate more fully in our economy, but it also helps to expand our state's tax base. The entrepreneurial spirit and diverse perspectives that immigrants bring are invaluable for the growth and innovation of our business community.

In addition, the bill responsibly addresses concerns about compliance and regulation. The requirement for applications to contain detailed information, including residency, age, birthplace, and descriptions of the proposed business location, ensures that all license holders are held to the same high standards, thereby maintaining community safety and integrity.

Furthermore, this bill aligns with the broader goal of integrating immigrants into our state's economic system. Immigrants are already a significant portion of our labor force, contributing immensely to our economy. In 2021, immigrant households earned a total income of \$1.9 trillion and paid over \$500 billion in taxes nationally. In Maryland, immigrants comprise about 15% of the population, with many being naturalized U.S. citizens and representing about 20 percent of the state's labor force.

Therefore, I am fully in support of this legislation. This bill not only represents an opportunity for economic growth but also signifies our commitment to diversity and inclusion in business ownership. It's a step towards creating a more vibrant, dynamic, and equitable economy for all members of our community.

Sincerely,



Tushar Vadadoriya.

**PG County Letter of Support - HB124.pdf**

Uploaded by: Terence Sheppard

Position: FWA



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS



Terence Sheppard  
Director

February 8, 2024

Delegate C.T. Wilson  
Chair, Economic Matters Committee  
Room 231  
House of Delegates  
Annapolis, MD. 21409

Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners  
9200 Basil Court, Suite 420  
Largo, MD 20774

Dear Chairman Wilson:

On behalf of the Prince George's County Liquor Board, I am writing to express our strong support for the legislative amendment to the Alcoholic Beverage, particularly HB124. This bill proposes a crucial change, allowing permanent legal residents, regardless of their citizenship status, to obtain an alcoholic beverage license under certain conditions. We believe this amendment aligns perfectly with our commitment to fostering a fair, diverse, and thriving business environment in our county.

As regulators of the liquor industry in Prince George's County, we are acutely aware of the diverse demographics of our community and the significant contributions made by immigrant populations. Allowing these residents to engage in the liquor store market, which is a substantial sector of our local economy, is not just a matter of fairness but also a strategic move towards economic growth and diversification.

The rigorous application process required by HB124 ensures that all potential licensees are thoroughly vetted for compliance with our stringent local laws and regulations. This vetting process is critical to maintaining the high standards of operation and safety that we uphold in our county. By requiring detailed information such as residency, age, birthplace, and business plans, we are not only ensuring responsible business practices but also reinforcing the integrity and safety of our communities.

Furthermore, this bill opens the door to increased economic activity and innovation within our county. Immigrant entrepreneurs bring unique perspectives and experiences that can lead to the introduction of new products, services, and business models, thereby enriching our local market. The expansion of business ownership to include permanent legal residents can also lead to an increase in job opportunities and greater tax revenues, benefiting our community as a whole.

**9200 Basil Court, Room 420, Largo, Maryland 20774**  
**Office: 301-583-9980 Fax: 301-583-9978**

Chairman Wilson  
February 8, 2024  
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In summary, the Prince George's County Liquor Board endorses HB124 and its aim to make liquor licenses more accessible to permanent legal residents. We believe this amendment is a positive step towards inclusive economic growth and represents a commitment to the values of diversity and opportunity that are core to our community.

We are in full support of this legislation and look forward to the positive changes it will bring to our county's liquor industry and the community at large.

Sincerely,  
Terence Sheppard

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Terence Sheppard".

Director  
Prince George's County  
Board of License Commissioners