



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.

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Chairman Wilson
February 8, 2024
Page 2

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