



Aisha N. Braveboy
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

HB406
FAVORABLE

April 1, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
The Honorable Antonio Hayes
Maryland Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing today in support of HB406, a bill that will remove a prohibition on licenses for small business owners and allow for increased transparency and accountability while promoting stable growth for small businesses. This legislation would allow Prince George's to make regulatory oversight clearer and empower our Board of License Commissioners to more easily identify parties responsible for multiple establishments.

I believe transparency is strengthened when ownership is straightforward and visible, not fragmented. To that end, HB406 creates a direct line of accountability between the license holder and an establishment's operation, and allows successful operators to expand their business by holding multiple licenses. As we've heard directly from our small business owners, current restrictions can limit entrepreneurs' ability to scale and keep them at single locations. Moreover, the existing artificial licensing caps disproportionately impact minority and family-owned businesses. This bill would create a pathway from "mom-and-pop" shops to multi-location small businesses now able to compete against well-funded chains and outside groups.

Growth should not be reserved exclusively for large corporations and out-of-county chains. Which is why repealing this prohibition would allow us to offer independent owners more tools to compete, grow and reinvest locally. It is widely acknowledged that small operators who succeed in a certain area are often the same ones bringing proven concepts back to underserved communities and beyond. I ask that you help us take another step in the right direction and repeal the current prohibition.

Thank you for your consideration. I ask for a favorable report on HB406.

Sincerely,

Aisha N. Braveboy
Prince George's County Executive