

SENATE BILL 1002

A2

6lr3728
CF 6lr3668

By: **Prince George's County Senators**
Introduced and read first time: February 24, 2026
Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class AER (Equity Retail)**
3 **License**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Class AER (equity retail) beer, wine, and liquor license
5 in Prince George's County; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for
6 Prince George's County to issue the license to an applicant that ~~is certified as a~~
7 ~~minority business enterprise by the county~~ meets certain criteria for use only in certain
8 areas of the county,
9 subject to certain requirements; limiting the number of Class AER licenses that the
10 Board may issue; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Prince
George's County.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
13 Section 26–102
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
18 Section 26–901.1
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis**

24 26–102.

25 This title applies only in Prince George's County.

1 ~~26-901.1.~~

2 (A) IN THIS SECTION, ~~“SOCIOALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED~~
 3 ~~INDIVIDUAL” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10A-101 OF THE PRINCE GEORGE’S~~
 4 ~~COUNTY CODE. QUALIFYING ZIP CODE” MEANS A ZIP CODE LOCATED IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY IN WHICH~~
 5 ~~THE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME, AS DETERMINED IN THE MOST RECENT DATA PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED~~
 6 ~~STATES CENSUS BUREAU, DOES NOT EXCEED \$86,000.~~

5 (B) THERE IS A CLASS AER (EQUITY RETAIL) BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR
 6 LICENSE.

7 (C) (1) THE LICENSE AUTHORIZES THE LICENSE HOLDER TO SELL BEER,
 8 WINE, AND LIQUOR AT RETAIL AT THE PLACE DESCRIBED IN THE LICENSE.

9 (2) THE LICENSE HOLDER SHALL SELL BEER, WINE, OR LIQUOR IN A
 10 SEALED PACKAGE OR CONTAINER THAT MAY NOT BE OPENED OR ITS CONTENTS
 11 CONSUMED ON THE LICENSED PREMISES.

12 (D) ~~THE~~ SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THIS SECTION, THE LICENSE MAY BE ISSUED ONLY:

13 (1) TO AN APPLICANT ~~THAT IS CERTIFIED AS A MINORITY BUSINESS~~
 14 ~~ENTERPRISE BY THE COUNTY WHO:~~

(I) RESIDES IN A QUALIFYING ZIP CODE AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION;

AND

(II) 1. HAS MAINTAINED A PRIMARY RESIDENCE IN ONE OR MORE
QUALIFYING ZIP CODES FOR AT LEAST 4 OF THE 8 YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF
THE APPLICATION; OR

2. ATTENDED A PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL LOCATED IN ONE OR MORE
QUALIFYING ZIP CODES FOR AT LEAST 4 YEARS; AND

15 (2) FOR USE AT AN ESTABLISHMENT THAT:

16 (I) IS LOCATED:

17 1. OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL BELTWAY; AND

18 2. AT LEAST ~~1~~ ONE-HALF MILE AWAY FROM ANY OTHER
 19 ESTABLISHMENT THAT HOLDS A CLASS A BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE; AND

20 (II) HAS A MINIMUM CAPITAL INVESTMENT OF ~~\$200,000~~ \$500,000
 21 TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT, ACQUISITION, OR BUILD-OUT OF THE LICENSED
 22 PREMISES; ~~AND~~

23 ~~(III) FEATURES AND MAINTAINS A MEANINGFUL INVENTORY OF~~
 24 ~~ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE BRANDS THAT WERE FOUNDED BY, OR ARE UNDER~~
 25 ~~OWNERSHIP BY A MAJORITY OF, SOCIOALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED~~
 26 ~~INDIVIDUALS.~~

27 (E) ~~AN ESTABLISHMENT LICENSED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE OWNED~~
 28 ~~AND UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF A CERTIFIED MINORITY BUSINESS~~
 29 ~~ENTERPRISE FOR THE DURATION OF THE LICENSE~~

(1) A LICENSE MAY NOT BE ISSUED TO AN APPLICANT IF:

(I) THE APPLICANT OR A PRINCIPAL OF THE APPLICANT HOLDS A DIRECT
OR INDIRECT OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN ANOTHER CLASS A BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE IN
THE COUNTY, EXCEPT AS AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD FOR GOOD CAUSE;

(II) THE APPLICANT IS CONTROLLED BY, AFFILIATED WITH, OR OPERATED FOR THE BENEFIT OF A CHAIN, FRANCHISE, OR OUTSIDE INVESTMENT GROUP IN A MANNER THAT UNDERMINES THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION; OR

(III) THE APPLICANT FAILS TO DEMONSTRATE ACTUAL DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE LICENSED ESTABLISHMENT.

(2) THE BOARD SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO AN APPLICANT THAT:

(I) IS A FIRST-TIME RETAIL LICENSE APPLICANT;

(II) DOES NOT EXCEED REVENUE OR NET-WORTH THRESHOLDS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD; AND

(III) DEMONSTRATES A NEED FOR MARKET ENTRY ASSISTANCE.

1 ~~(F) IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTIONS (D) AND (E)~~
2 ~~OF THIS SECTION, A A LICENSE UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE ISSUED FOR A~~
3 ~~DRUGSTORE UNLESS THE APPLICANT:~~

4 ~~(1) HAS BEEN DOING BUSINESS AT THE LOCATION APPLIED FOR IN~~
5 ~~THE LICENSE FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR BEFORE THE DATE OF THE APPLICATION FOR~~
6 ~~THE LICENSE;~~

7 ~~(2) IS THE ASSIGNEE OF A BUSINESS ESTABLISHED FOR AT LEAST 1~~
8 ~~YEAR BEFORE THE DATE OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE LICENSE AT THE LOCATION~~
9 ~~APPLIED FOR; OR~~

10 ~~(3) HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN THE RETAIL DRUG BUSINESS FOR AT~~
11 ~~LEAST 3 YEARS.~~

12 (G) THE BOARD MAY NOT ISSUE MORE THAN:

13 (1) 2 LICENSES UNDER THIS SECTION PER YEAR; AND

14 (2) A TOTAL OF 10 LICENSES UNDER THIS SECTION.

15 (H) THE LICENSE HOLDER MAY SELL BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR DURING THE
16 HOURS AND DAYS AS SET OUT FOR A CLASS A BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE
17 UNDER § 26-2004 OF THIS TITLE, SUBJECT TO COUNTY USE AND OCCUPANCY LAWS
18 FOR HOURS OF OPERATION.

19 (I) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

20 (J) THE ANNUAL LICENSE FEE IS \$910.

(K) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2027, AND EACH DECEMBER 1 THEREAFTER, THE
BOARD SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DELEGATIONS TO THE HOUSE
OF DELEGATES AND SENATE OF MARYLAND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE
GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING INFORMATION
REGARDING THE LOCATION OF EACH LICENSE ISSUED AND THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF EACH LICENSE
HOLDER.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
22 1, 2026.