

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 415 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Economic Matters and Government,
Labor, and Elections

**Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class A Beer and Class A Beer
and Wine Licenses - Retail Grocery Establishments PG 304-26**

This bill authorizes the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners to issue, inside the Capital Beltway, a Class A beer or a Class A beer and wine license to an applicant for use in conjunction with or on the premises of a self-service retail establishment that is independently owned or part of a corporation operating a chain of retail establishments that offer specified food products. By September 1 each year, the board must report to the Governor and General Assembly (1) the number of licenses issued and license applications pending approval and (2) the average monthly percentage of gross receipts derived from the sale of food products for each license holder in the previous fiscal year. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026, and terminates June 30, 2031.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Prince George's County annual license fee revenues increase by \$2,000, beginning in FY 2027. Prince George's County can likely handle any additional enforcement activity with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potentially meaningful.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The board may issue a Class A beer or Class A beer and wine license to an applicant for use in conjunction with or on the premises of a self-service retail establishment that:

- is independently owned or part of a corporation operating a chain of retail establishments under the same trade name;
- offers food products in at least six of the following categories: (1) fresh fruits and vegetables; (2) fresh and uncooked meat, poultry, and seafood; (3) dairy products; (4) canned foods; (5) frozen foods; (6) dry groceries and baked goods; or (7) nonalcoholic beverages;
- has a minimum of 50% of the square footage of the public area of the retail establishment dedicated to the sale of food and nonalcoholic beverages; and
- derives at least 50% of the average monthly gross receipts from the sale of food products.

Existing requirements that generally limit a person to only being able to obtain one alcoholic beverages license do not apply to licenses issued under the bill.

Current Law: Generally, in Prince George's County and throughout the State, except by way of renewal, or as otherwise provided, alcoholic beverages licenses may not be granted, transferred, or issued to, or for use in conjunction with, or upon the premises of any chain store, supermarket, or discount house.

In Prince George's County, a Class A beer license generally authorizes a license holder to sell beer at retail in a sealed package or container, which may not be opened, and its contents may not be consumed on the premises where the beer is sold. The annual license fee is \$500.

In Prince George's County, a Class A beer and light wine license generally authorizes a license holder to sell beer and wine at retail in a sealed package or container, which may not be opened, and its contents may not be consumed on the premises where the beer or wine is sold. The annual license fee is \$500.

Local Fiscal Effect: Prince George's County revenues increase by \$500 for each additional Class A beer and Class A beer and wine license issued inside the Capital Beltway under the bill. The county estimates that four supermarkets may apply for a Class A beer and Class A beer and wine license in fiscal 2027. If all four supermarkets are issued licenses under the bill, county annual license revenues increase by \$2,000 annually, beginning in fiscal 2027.

Small Business Effect: Small business grocery stores and convenience stores in Prince George’s County are likely to benefit meaningfully from the authority to sell alcoholic beverages under the bill. Conversely, small businesses in Prince George’s County that are licensed to sell alcoholic beverages under current law are likely to lose business as grocery stores and convenience stores begin to sell alcoholic beverages as well.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George’s County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2026
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