

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 1002
Finance

(Prince George's County Senators)

**Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class AER (Equity Retail)
License**

This bill establishes a Class AER (equity retail) beer, wine, and liquor license in Prince George’s County and authorizes the Prince George’s County Board of License Commissioners to issue the license only to an applicant that is certified by the county as a minority business enterprise, as specified. The license authorizes the license holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor, at retail, in sealed packages or containers for off-premises consumption. The board may issue up to two licenses per year and no more than ten licenses in total. The board may adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of the bill. The annual fee for a Class AER license is \$910. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County license fee revenues increase by approximately \$1,820 in FY 2027 and by up to \$9,100 in FY 2031, as discussed below. Prince George's County expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Under the Prince George’s County Code, a “socially and economically disadvantaged individual” means any individual who is a citizen (or lawfully admitted permanent resident) of the United States and who is in any of the following groups: Black American, Hispanic American, Native American, Asian-Pacific American,

Subcontinent Asian American, women, or any additional groups whose members are designated as socially and economically disadvantaged, as specified.

A Class AER license may only be issued for use at an establishment that (1) is located outside the Capital Beltway and at least one mile away from any other establishment that holds a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license; (2) has a minimum capital investment of \$200,000 toward the development, acquisition, or build-out of the licensed premises; and (3) features and maintains a meaningful inventory of alcoholic beverage brands that were founded by, or are under ownership by a majority of, socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

A Class AER license must be owned and under operational control of the certified minority business enterprise for the duration of the license.

A Class AER license may not be issued for a drugstore unless the applicant (1) has been doing business at the location applied for in the license for at least one year before the date of the application for a license; (2) is the assignee of a business established for at least one year before the date of the application for the license at the location applied for; or (3) has been engaged in the retail drug business for at least three years.

A Class AER license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor during the hours and days set forth for a Class A beer, wine, and liquor license.

Current Law: A “Minority Business Enterprise” means any business enterprise:

- which is at least 51% owned by one or more minority individuals, or, in the case of any publicly-owned corporation, at least 51% of the stock of which is owned by one or more minority individuals;
- whose general management and daily business affairs and essential productive operations are controlled by one or more minority individuals; and
- which has been certified by the Supplier Development and Diversity Division as a minority business enterprise.

A Class A beer, wine, and liquor license holder in Prince George’s County is authorized to sell beer, wine, and liquor for off-premises consumption Monday through Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to midnight, and on Sunday from 8 a.m. to midnight with a Sunday off-sale permit.

Local Revenues: The annual license fee for a Class AER license is \$910. This analysis assumes the board will issue two new licenses each year until all ten licenses authorized by the bill are issued. Therefore, Prince George’s County license fee revenues are estimated

to increase by: (1) \$1,820 in fiscal 2027; (2) \$3,640 in fiscal 2028; (3) \$5,460 in fiscal 2029; (4) \$7,280 in fiscal 2030; and by \$9,100 in fiscal 2031.

Small Business Effect: The bill will have a potentially meaningful impact to the extent qualified small businesses obtain a Class AER license under the bill.

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 - April 10, 2026
jg/tso

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