

SENATE BILL 1002

A2

6lr3728
CF 6lr3668

By: **Prince George's County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: February 24, 2026

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Finance, March 21, 2026

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 27, 2026

CHAPTER _____

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
8 certain areas of the county, subject to certain requirements; limiting the number of
9 Class AER licenses that the Board may issue; and generally relating to alcoholic
10 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)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

26–102.

This title applies only in Prince George’s County.

26–901.1.

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

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

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

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

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

(1) TO AN APPLICANT ~~THAT IS CERTIFIED AS A MINORITY BUSINESS 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

1 **(2) FOR USE AT AN ESTABLISHMENT THAT:**

2 **(I) IS LOCATED:**

3 **1. OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL BELTWAY; AND**

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

6 **(II) HAS A MINIMUM CAPITAL INVESTMENT OF ~~\$200,000~~**
7 **\$500,000 TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT, ACQUISITION, OR BUILD-OUT OF THE**
8 **LICENSED PREMISES; ~~AND~~**

9 ~~**(III) FEATURES AND MAINTAINS A MEANINGFUL INVENTORY OF**~~
10 ~~**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE BRANDS THAT WERE FOUNDED BY, OR ARE UNDER**~~
11 ~~**OWNERSHIP BY A MAJORITY OF, SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED**~~
12 ~~**INDIVIDUALS.**~~

13 ~~**(E) AN ESTABLISHMENT LICENSED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE OWNED**~~
14 ~~**AND UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF A CERTIFIED MINORITY BUSINESS**~~
15 ~~**ENTERPRISE FOR THE DURATION OF THE LICENSE**~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 **(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.

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

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
 29 1, 2026.