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

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Prince George's County – Alcoholic Beverages – Study on Licensed Establishments

PG 303–27

FOR the purpose of requiring Prince George's County to contract with an independent consultant to conduct a certain disparity study concerning licensed alcoholic beverages establishments in Prince George's County; requiring each unit of the Prince George's County government with access to relevant information to make the information available without charge to the consultant; prohibiting the consultant from purchasing data from a private source or recreating data if substantially equivalent data is available from a government source at a lower cost; and generally relating to a disparity study concerning licensed alcoholic beverages establishments in Prince George's County.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "County" means Prince George's County.

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
[Brackets**]** indicate matter deleted from existing law.

(3) "Licensed establishment" means a business operating under an alcoholic beverages license issued by the Board of License Commissioners for Prince George's County.

(b) (1) The governing body of Prince George's County shall contract with a qualified consultant to conduct an independent disparity study concerning the ownership, acquisition, financing, transferring, and licensing of licensed establishments in the county.

(2) The disparity study shall:

(i) determine whether significant racial or ethnic disparities exist in the ownership and acquisition of licensed establishments in the county;

(ii) identify historic and present barriers to market entry, ownership, financing, transferring, and licensing of licensed establishments in the county; and

(iii) determine whether discrimination, governmental practices, private–sector practices, or other conditions contributed to any identified disparity.

(3) For the 10–year period immediately preceding the disparity study, the study shall examine:

(i) the demographics of the ownership of licensed establishments;

(ii) patterns in:

1. the sale, transfer, succession, and change of control of licensed establishments; and

2. the issuance of licenses for licensed establishments;

(iii) the availability of qualified and financially capable prospective purchasers of licensed establishments compared to the number of establishments and licenses;

(iv) access to commercial credit, acquisition financing, working capital, and equity investment for owners or prospective owners of a licensed establishment;

(v) barriers to entry to the industry and acquisition of a licensed establishment caused by informal or closed–market transfer practices;

(vi) the extent to which government and private–sector policies and practices have contributed to any identified disparities; and

(vii) any other evidence on the legality and constitutionality of any remedial action to address disparities in the ownership, acquisition, financing, transferring, licensing, and operation of licensed establishments in the county.

(c) (1) If complete reliable data sets are not available for a specific topic or the full 10–year period, the consultant may use accepted statistical, archival, and historical methodologies to perform the analysis.

(2) Even if complete data is unavailable, the consultant shall complete the study to the extent possible.

(d) (1) Nothing in this subsection authorizes the disclosure of information that is otherwise made confidential or private by federal, State, or local laws.

(2) To the extent authorized by federal, State, or local laws, on request by the consultant, each unit of the county government with access to relevant information shall make the information available without charge.

(3) The county shall seek relevant information available from State and federal sources, including:

(i) current and historical alcoholic beverages licensing records, such as licenses, applications, and transfer records;

(ii) ownership and investment information;

(iii) geographic information, such as business locations, geographic information system data, land–use, commercial–corridor, demographic, and geoeconomic data;

(iv) information on State regulations of businesses; and

(v) other existing government records or data necessary for the study.

(4) The consultant may not purchase data from a private source or recreate data if substantially equivalent data is available from a federal, State, or local government source at a lower cost or at no cost.

(e) On or before September 1, 2028, the consultant shall submit the completed report and recommendations to the Prince George's County Executive, the Prince George's County Council, the Board of License Commissioners for Prince George's County, and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the members of the Prince George's County Delegation to the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2027. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2029, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.