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Bill No.: _____
Requested: _____
Committee: _____

Drafted by: Carter
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Stored – 10/28/26
Proofread by _____
Checked by _____

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

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

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

PG 307–27

FOR the purpose of establishing a Class AER (equity retail) beer, wine, and liquor license in Prince George's County; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Prince George's County to issue the license to an applicant that meets certain criteria for use only in certain areas of the county, subject to certain requirements; limiting the number of Class AER licenses that the Board may issue; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Prince George's County.

BY renumbering
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 26–2004(b) through (j)
to be Section 26–2004(c) through (k), respectively
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume and 2026 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 26–102

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

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume and 2026 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 26–901.1 and 26–2004(b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume and 2026 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 26–903(f), 26–904(e), and 26–1019(f)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume and 2026 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 26–2004(b) through (j) of Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 26–2004(c) through (k), respectively.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, 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, "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) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THIS SECTION, THE LICENSE MAY BE ISSUED ONLY:

(1) TO AN APPLICANT 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

(2) FOR USE AT AN ESTABLISHMENT THAT:

(I) IS LOCATED:

1. OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL BELTWAY; AND

2. AT LEAST ONE–HALF MILE AWAY FROM ANY OTHER ESTABLISHMENT THAT HOLDS A CLASS A BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE; AND

(II) HAS A MINIMUM CAPITAL INVESTMENT OF $100 PER SQUARE FOOT TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT, ACQUISITION, OR BUILD–OUT OF THE LICENSED PREMISES.

(E) (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.

(F) A LICENSE UNDER THIS SECTION 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 1 YEAR BEFORE THE DATE OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE LICENSE;

(2) IS THE ASSIGNEE OF A BUSINESS ESTABLISHED FOR AT LEAST 1 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 3 YEARS.

(G) THE BOARD MAY NOT ISSUE MORE THAN:

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

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

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

(I) THE ANNUAL LICENSE FEE IS EQUAL TO THE SUM OF:

(1) THE FEE FOR A CLASS A BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE UNDER § 26–901 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(2) THE FEE FOR A SUNDAY OFF–SALE PERMIT FOR THE HOLDER OF A CLASS A BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE UNDER § 26–1104 OF THIS TITLE.

26–903.

(f) The license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor during the hours and days as set out under **[**§ 26–2004(b)**] § 26–2004** of this title.

26–904.

(e) The license holder may sell beer, wine, and liquor during the hours and days as set out under **[**§ 26–2004(e)**] § 26–2004** of this title.

26–1019.

(f) The license holder is not subject to the restrictions on the sale of beer, wine, and liquor on Sunday in **[**§ 26–2004(j)(2)**] § 26–2004** of this title.

26–2004.

(B) A HOLDER OF A CLASS AER (EQUITY RETAIL) BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE MAY SELL BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR ON MONDAY THROUGH SUNDAY FROM 6 A.M. TO 2 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2027.