

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2024 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-003-2025

Draft No.: 2

Committee: GOFP

Date: June 10, 2025

Action: FAV (A)

REPORT: Committee Vote: Favorable as amended 4-0 (Council Members Watson, Burroughs, Oriadha, and Blegay)

The Prince George's County Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee convened on February 27, 2025, and on June 10, 2025, to consider **CR-003-2025, A Resolution Concerning Alcoholic Beverages and Licenses for Retail Grocery Establishments.**

Adoption of CR-003 would request support from the County House and Senate Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly for an amendment to State law to authorize the Board of License Commissioners in Prince George's County to issue Class A beer and wine licenses to retail grocery establishments. Adoption is also intended to state a policy by the Prince George's County Council and request that the Prince George's House and Senate delegations of the Maryland General Assembly support local legislation allowing the Board of License Commissioners ("the Board") for Prince George's County to issue a Class A beer and wine licenses to grocery stores. This year, the results of a study commissioned by the House Delegation and Prince George's County is available to inform their consideration.

During the February 27 meeting the bill sponsor stated that the proposed legislation may increase the financial viability of grocery stores in underserved communities. In Prince George's County, forty percent (40%) of the County's neighborhoods are considered food deserts, and places with low access to food and unhealthy food accounts for fifty-five (55%) of those communities' outlets.

Mr. Jim Spiropoulos of Town Center Market in Riverdale Park addressed the committee and stated that 70 % of their business is beer and wine and that a change in law in Colorado has devastated independently owned stores and shows that a 30% loss of revenue is possible.

Council Vice Chair Oriadha spoke in support of the legislation. After further discussion the GOFP committee voted to hold 3-0 for additional work.

During the June 10, 2025, GOFP meeting, Council staff described the purpose of the resolution and provided the fiscal impact and noted that CR-003-2025 will not have a direct fiscal impact on the County as this legislation expresses support for State legislation.

Ms. Sakinda Skinner representing the Office of the County Executive requested support from the Council. Mr. Terrence Sheppard representing the Board of License Commissioners offered technical amendments on page 1 line 6 -- changing from class A to class D. 'Light wine' needs to be changed to 'wine' to increase flexibility for stores, and on page 1 line 8 -- instead of 'perception' it should say 'pursuant to'.

Ms. Terry Bell representing the Office of Law stated that the legislation was in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to enactment.

After further discussion, the Prince George's County Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee voted favorably 4-0 as amended.