

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2025 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-084-2025
Proposed by Council Member Blegay
Introduced by _____
Co-Sponsors _____
Date of Introduction September 9, 2025

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Alcoholic Beverages – Licenses for Grocery Stores

3 For the purpose of stating a policy by the Prince George's County Council and requesting that
4 the County support local legislation allowing the Board ("the Board") of License Commissioners
5 for Prince George's County to issue beer and wine licenses to all grocery stores in the Board's
6 jurisdiction to sale beer and wine to individuals who are twenty-one (21) years old or older.

7 WHEREAS, the Maryland Code promulgates the sale of Alcoholic Beverages in Section
8 26-102, and 26-1501 through 26-1509, Section 4-205 of the Annotated Code of Maryland,
9 (Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis); and

10 WHEREAS, the Maryland Code currently prohibits a local licensing board from issuing
11 beer and wine licenses to a chain store, supermarket, discount house including high quality
12 grocery stores; and

13 WHEREAS, by allowing beer and wine sales will ultimately incentivize premium grocery
14 chains to establish locations in Prince George's County, improving access to diverse and healthy
15 food options for its residents; and

16 WHEREAS, the Governor of Maryland, Wes Moore, supports issuing licenses for beer and
17 wine for all grocery stores in Prince George's County; and

18 WHEREAS, Maryland's current law to prohibit grocery stores to sell beer and wine was
19 implemented in 1978, which does not keep up with market trends and modernization standards.

20 WHEREAS, in many neighborhoods, the closest grocery store to the citizens of Prince
21 George's County is in concurrent jurisdictions of Virginia, the District of Columbia, and
22 Montgomery County which incentivizes business to relocate outside of the County; and

1 WHEREAS, surveys show an overwhelming support for allowing such sales which would
2 bring Maryland in line with the laws in Virginia, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia; and

3 WHEREAS, many residents must travel to neighboring jurisdictions to shop; thereby
4 leaving Prince George's County vulnerable to the deterioration of the economic, social and
5 physical business environment.

6 WHEREAS, by allowing the sell of beer and wine in Prince George's County will increase
7 consumer convenience by consolidating grocery shopping and alcohol purchases in one location
8 which offers convenience to customers, especially those with busy lifestyles, reducing the need
9 for additional trips to separate stores, and

10 WHEREAS, it also leads to economic activity through new job growth, higher property
11 value, and an increased tax revenue which benefits the County's overall economic health; and

12 WHEREAS, the prohibition of the sell of wine and beer may lead to the decline in tax
13 revenue in the County; and

14 WHEREAS, allowing the sale of beer and wine ensures the County remains competitive;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, by giving licenses to grocery stores will address racial inequities in the
17 County; and

18 WHEREAS, by providing licenses to grocery stores will promote retail development in the
19 marginalized and underserved areas of the County; and
20

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
2 County, Maryland, that Prince George’s County supports the sale of beer and wine in all grocery
3 stores and to allow retail grocery stores including high end grocery stores to sell beer and wine to
4 individuals who are twenty-one years (21) old or older.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2025.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Edward P. Burroughs III
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council