

Bill No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Requested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

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By: **Howard County Delegation**

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Howard County – Alcoholic Beverages – Repeal of Petition of Support**  
3 **Requirement**

4 **Ho. Co. 15–22**

5 FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that an application for an alcoholic  
6 beverages license in Howard County include certain petitions of support signed by  
7 certain individuals; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Howard  
8 County.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – Alcoholic Beverages  
11 Section 4–110 and 23–102  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2016 Volume and 2021 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article – Alcoholic Beverages  
16 Section 23–1401(b) and 23–1407  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2016 Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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



1 BY repealing  
2 Article – Alcoholic Beverages  
3 Section 23–1406  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2016 Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

8 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages**

9 4–110.

10 The application shall also include a petition of support signed by at least 10 residents  
11 who are owners of real estate and registered voters of the precinct in which the business is  
12 to be conducted stating:

13 (1) the length of time each of the residents has been acquainted with the  
14 applicant or, if the applicant is a corporation, acquainted with the individuals making the  
15 application;

16 (2) that they have examined the application, have good reason to believe  
17 that the statements contained in the application are true, and in their judgment the  
18 applicant is a suitable person to obtain the license; and

19 (3) that they are familiar with the premises on which the proposed  
20 business is to be conducted and that they believe the premises are suitable for the conduct  
21 of business as a retail dealer.

22 23–102.

23 This title applies only in Howard County.

24 23–1401.

25 (b) Section 4–110 (“Required information on application — Petition for support”)  
26 of Division I of this article does not apply in the county [and is superseded by § 23–1406 of  
27 this subtitle].

1 [23–1406.

2 (a) At least one of the applicants shall include with the application a petition of  
3 support signed by at least three residents who are owners of real property and registered  
4 voters in the district where the business is to be conducted stating that the applicant:

5 (1) is known personally to the residents; and

6 (2) subject to subsection (b) of this section, is a resident of the county at the  
7 time the applicant presents the application to the residents.

8 (b) The Board may waive the residency requirement for an applicant if the  
9 applicant:

10 (1) is the purchaser of a business already in operation; or

11 (2) has owned the premises for which a license is sought for at least 2 years  
12 immediately preceding the filing of the application.]

13 23–1407.

14 (a) At least one of the applicants for a license shall be a resident of the county.

15 (b) In the determination of the Board, each applicant shall:

16 (1) be of good character; and

17 (2) include the following information with the application:

18 (i) a statement that the applicant is at least 18 years old; and

19 (ii) a checklist and police consent form.

20 **(C) THE BOARD MAY WAIVE THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR AN**  
21 **APPLICANT IF THE APPLICANT:**

22 **(1) IS THE PURCHASER OF A BUSINESS ALREADY IN OPERATION; OR**

1                   **(2) HAS OWNED THE PREMISES FOR WHICH A LICENSE IS SOUGHT FOR**  
2 **AT LEAST 2 YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE FILING OF THE APPLICATION.**

3                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
4 1, 2022.