COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2025, Legislative Day No. 1

Resolution No. 4-25

All Councilmembers

By the County Council, January 7, 2025

A RESOLUTION of the Baltimore County Council encouraging the Maryland General Assembly to retain Maryland's current laws over the sale of beer and wine and reject any legislation that would allow alcohol sales in grocery stores.

WHEREAS, in 1978, Maryland prohibited beer, wine, and distilled spirits from being sold at grocery and convenience stores, restricting the sale of these products to licensed liquor stores that must be owned by a Maryland resident and that holds only one liquor license; and

WHEREAS, currently, Maryland is one of three states — alongside Alaska and Rhode Island — that do not allow grocers to stock and sell beer, and one of 10 states that do not allow grocers to sell wine; and

WHEREAS, this successful policy has prevented a proliferation of alcohol sales in the State and bolstered the community of locally owned liquor stores that are a valuable part of Maryland's small business economy; and

WHEREAS, in December, 2024, Governor Moore announced his support for legislation that would allow beer and wine to be sold in grocery stores, stating that his administration will do more than "just whip the votes" and that the General Assembly will know that the Governor "wants something on [his] desk at the end of the [2025] session"; and

WHEREAS, lifting Maryland's beer and wine sales restrictions will likely have a negative

impact on our small business economy and will almost certainly result in the closing of many independent liquor stores; and

WHEREAS, Maryland's current alcohol sales regulations reward passionate beer, wine, and spirit entrepreneurs who put their life savings into their stores and spend their career understanding their customers and finding quality products to suit local tastes; and

WHEREAS; the families and small businesses that currently run Maryland's independent liquor stores will likely struggle to compete against big corporate supermarkets and regional convenience store chains; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Colorado residents voted to allow wine sales in grocery stores over the objections of small store owners who feared they would be forced out of business – since then, dozens of small operators have gone out of business, with as many as 400 more expected to close by the end of 2026, according to an analysis by the Denver Gazette; and

WHEREAS, Maryland has a chance to avoid a similar blow to our small business community; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Baltimore County Council encourages the Maryland General Assembly to retain Maryland's current laws over the sale of beer and wine and reject any legislation that would allow alcohol sales in grocery stores; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor of Maryland; the Baltimore County delegation to the Maryland General Assembly; and the Baltimore County Executive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage by the County Council.

LEGISLATION DETAIL

LEGISLATION	RESOLUTION 4-25
DISPOSITION	PASSED
ENACTED	N/A
EFFECTIVE	N/A
AMENDMENTS	NO

ROLL CALL - BILL

MOTION MARKS SECOND JONES

AYE	NAY	
☑	☐	Councilman Young
☑	☐	Councilman Patoka
☑	☐	Councilman Kach
☑	☐	Councilman Jones
☑	☐	Councilman Marks
☑	☐	Councilman Ertel
☑	☐	Councilman Crandell

ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION SECOND

AYE	NAY	
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☐	☐	Councilman Patoka
☐	☐	Councilman Kach
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