

HOUSE BILL 506

A1

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

2lr0301
CF 2lr0302

By: **Delegate Qi**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2022

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Constitutional Amendment – Beer and Wine Licenses – Retail Grocery**
3 **Establishments**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing that, on or after a certain date, a retail grocery
5 establishment in the State may obtain a license authorizing the retail grocery
6 establishment to sell beer and wine to individuals who are at least a certain age.

7 BY proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution
8 New Article XX – Retail Grocery Establishments; Beer and Wine Sales
9 Section 1

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
11 (Three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses concurring), That it be
12 proposed that the Maryland Constitution read as follows:

13 **Article XX – Retail Grocery Establishments; Beer and Wine Sales**

14 **1.**

15 **(A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, ON OR AFTER JULY 1,**
16 **2024, A RETAIL GROCERY ESTABLISHMENT IN THE STATE MAY OBTAIN A LICENSE**
17 **AUTHORIZING THE RETAIL GROCERY ESTABLISHMENT TO SELL BEER AND WINE TO**
18 **INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD.**

19 **(B) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL, BY LAW:**

20 **(1) PROVIDE FOR THE REGULATORY AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**
21 **GOVERNING THE ISSUANCE OF BEER AND WINE LICENSES TO RETAIL GROCERY**
22 **ESTABLISHMENTS; AND**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) PRIORITYZE THE ISSUANCE OF BEER AND WINE LICENSES FOR**
2 **RETAIL GROCERY ESTABLISHMENTS THAT ARE LOCATED IN GEOGRAPHIC AREAS**
3 **THAT HAVE A DEMONSTRATED LACK OF AFFORDABLE HEALTHY FOOD OPTIONS.**

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly
5 determines that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this
6 Act affects multiple jurisdictions and that the provisions of Article XIV, § 1 of the Maryland
7 Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments do not apply.

8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

9 (a) The amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this
10 Act shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the next general election to be
11 held in November 2022 for adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland
12 Constitution.

13 (b) (1) At that general election, the vote on the proposed amendment to the
14 Constitution shall be by ballot, and on each ballot there shall be printed the words “For the
15 Constitutional Amendment” and “Against the Constitutional Amendment”, as now
16 provided by law.

17 (2) At that general election, a question substantially similar to the
18 following shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the State:

19 “Question ___ – Constitutional Amendment

20 Do you favor the ability of retail grocery establishments in the State, such as grocery
21 stores and supermarkets, to sell beer and wine to individuals who are at least 21 years of
22 age?”.

23 (c) Immediately after the election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of
24 the vote for and against the proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the
25 Maryland Constitution, and further proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.