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S.138

Representative Stevens of Waterbury moves that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended as follows:

First: After Sec. A.15, by inserting a section A.16 to read as follows:

Sec. A.16. VERMONT LIQUOR CONTROL SYSTEM MODERNIZATION  
STUDY COMMITTEE

(a) Creation. There is created a Vermont Liquor Control System Modernization Study Committee to evaluate Vermont’s liquor control system and the Department of Liquor Control and determine whether and how the system and the Department can be made more efficient, effective, and profitable.

(b) Membership. The Commission shall be composed of the following 7 members:

(1) two current members of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) two current members of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(3) the Chair of the Liquor Control Board or designee;

(4) the State Auditor or designee; and

(5) the Commissioner of Taxes or designee.

1        (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study and evaluate Vermont's  
2        liquor control system and the Department of Liquor Control and determine  
3        whether and how the system and the Department can be made more efficient,  
4        effective, and profitable. In particular, the Committee shall:

5                (1) examine and evaluate the governance and operation of the  
6        Department of Liquor Control in comparison with the governance and  
7        operation of liquor control agencies in other states, and identify various  
8        measures by which the governance of the Department of Liquor Control could  
9        be made more efficient, effective, and profitable;

10               (2) examine and evaluate any changes to licensing, enforcement,  
11        education, fees, and taxes related to the sale of alcoholic beverages that would  
12        be necessary to implement the various measures identified pursuant to  
13        subdivision (1) of this subsection;

14               (3) evaluate the impact of the various measures identified pursuant to  
15        subdivision (1) of this subsection with respect to:

16                        (A) public health and safety;

17                        (B) the tax revenue and income generated by the Department;

18                        (C) any savings in the cost of the services provided by the  
19        Department;

20                        (D) any economic impact on the businesses licensed by the  
21        Department; and

1           (E) the price and availability of alcoholic beverages for consumers in  
2 Vermont.

3           (4) examine and evaluate Vermont’s system for the sale and distribution  
4 of alcoholic beverages in comparison with the systems employed by other  
5 states for the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages, including systems in  
6 which spirits and fortified wines are distributed by private entities, public  
7 entities, or a combination of private and public entities;

8           (5) identify various measures by which the sale and distribution of  
9 alcoholic beverages in Vermont could be made more efficient, effective, and  
10 profitable;

11           (6) examine and evaluate any changes to licensing, enforcement,  
12 education, fees, and taxes related to the sale of alcoholic beverages that would  
13 be necessary to implement the various measures identified pursuant to  
14 subdivision (5) of this subsection; and

15           (7) evaluate the impact of the various measures identified pursuant to  
16 subdivision (5) of this subsection with respect to:

17           (A) public health and safety;

18           (B) the tax revenue and income generated by the Department;

19           (C) any savings in the cost of the services provided by the

20 Department;

1           (D) any economic impact on the businesses licensed by the  
2           Department; and

3           (E) the price and availability of alcoholic beverages for consumers in  
4           Vermont.

5           (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,  
6           and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal  
7           Office. The Committee may retain additional legal and other services as  
8           necessary.

9           (e) Report. On or before December 15, 2015, the Committee shall submit a  
10          report to the House Committees on General, Housing and Military Affairs and  
11          on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Economic  
12          Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Government Operations  
13          with its findings and proposed changes to the Department of Liquor Control  
14          and Vermont's liquor control system, as well as a recommendation for any  
15          legislative action necessary to implement the changes proposed by the  
16          Committee. The report of the Committee may take the form of draft  
17          legislation.

18          (f) Meetings.

19                 (1) The Co-Chairs of the Committee shall call the first meeting of the  
20                 Committee to occur on or before July 30, 2015.

1           (2) A member from the House of Representatives designated by the  
2           Speaker of the House and a member from the Senate designated by the Senate  
3           Committee on Committees shall be the Co-Chairs of the Committee.

4           (3) A majority of the membership of the Committee shall constitute a  
5           quorum.

6           (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 15, 2016.

7           (g) Reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the  
8           General Assembly, legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to  
9           per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A.  
10          § 406 for no more than six meetings.

11          Second: In Sec. H.1, after subdivision (c)(1), by inserting a subdivision  
12          (c)(2) to read as follows:

13           (2) Sec. A.16 shall take effect on July 1, 2015.