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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 for the Vermont economy while protecting the public health and safety.

(b) Membership. The Commission shall be composed of the following seven 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 for the Vermont economy while protecting the public
5 health and safety. In particular, the Committee shall:

6 (1) examine and evaluate the governance and operation of the
7 Department of Liquor Control in comparison with the governance and
8 operation of liquor control agencies in other states, and identify various
9 measures by which the governance and operation of the Department of Liquor
10 Control could be made more efficient, effective, and profitable for the Vermont
11 economy while protecting the public health and safety;

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

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

18 (A) public health and safety;

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

20 (C) any savings in the cost of the services provided by the
21 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 (4) examine and evaluate Vermont’s regulatory system for the
6 production, sale, and distribution of spirits and fortified wines in comparison
7 with the systems employed by other states, including systems in which spirits
8 and fortified wines are distributed by private entities, public entities, or a
9 combination of private and public entities;

10 (5) identify various measures by which Vermont’s regulatory system for
11 the production, sale, and distribution of spirits and fortified wines could be
12 made more efficient, effective, and profitable for the Vermont economy while
13 protecting the public health and safety;

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

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

20 (A) public health and safety;

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

1 (C) any savings in the cost of the services provided by the
2 Department;

3 (D) any economic impact on the businesses licensed by the
4 Department; and

5 (E) the price and availability of alcoholic beverages for consumers in
6 Vermont.

7 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
8 and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal
9 Office.

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

19 (f) Meetings.

20 (1) The Co-Chairs of the Committee shall call the first meeting of the
21 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.