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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 17 members:

(1) three current members of the House of Representatives, not all from the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) three current members of the Senate, not all from the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(3) the Commissioner of Liquor Control or designee;

(4) the State Auditor or designee;

(5) the Commissioner of Taxes or designee;

(6) a licensed wholesale distributor or bottler;

- 1 (7) a licensed manufacturer or rectifier of spirits;
- 2 (8) a licensed manufacturer or rectifier of malt beverages;
- 3 (9) a licensed manufacturer or rectifier of vinous beverages;
- 4 (10) a first-class license holder;
- 5 (11) a second-class license holder;
- 6 (12) a first- and third-class license holder; and
- 7 (13) the owner of a Vermont agency liquor store.

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

12 (1) examine and evaluate the governance and operation of the
13 Department of Liquor Control in comparison with the governance and
14 operation of liquor control agencies in other states, and identify various
15 measures by which the governance of the Department of Liquor Control could
16 be made more efficient, effective, and profitable;

17 (2) examine and evaluate any necessary changes to licensing,
18 enforcement, education, fees, and taxes administer by the Department that
19 would be necessary to implement the various measures identified pursuant to
20 subdivision (1) of this subsection;

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

3 (A) public health and safety;

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

5 (C) any savings in the cost of the services provided by the
6 Department;

7 (D) any economic impact on the businesses licensed by the
8 Department; and

9 (E) the price and availability of alcoholic beverages for consumers in
10 Vermont.

11 (4) examine and evaluate Vermont's system for the sale and distribution
12 of alcoholic beverages in comparison with the systems employed by other
13 states for the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages, including systems in
14 which spirits and fortified wines are distributed by private entities, public
15 entities, or a combination of private and public entities;

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

19 (6) examine and evaluate any necessary changes to licensing,
20 enforcement, education, fees, and taxation in relation to alcoholic beverages

1 that would be necessary to implement the various measures identified pursuant
2 to subdivision (5) of this subsection; and

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

5 (A) public health and safety;

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

7 (C) any savings in the cost of the services provided by the
8 Department;

9 (D) any economic impact on the businesses licensed by the
10 Department; and

11 (E) the price and availability of alcoholic beverages for consumers in
12 Vermont.

13 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
14 and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal
15 Office. The Committee may retain additional legal and other services as
16 necessary.

17 (e) Report. On or before December 15, 2015, the Committee shall submit a
18 written report to the House Committees on General, Housing and Military
19 Affairs and on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on
20 Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Government
21 Operations with its findings and proposed changes to the Department of Liquor

1 Control and Vermont's liquor control system, as well as a recommendation for
2 any legislative action necessary to implement the changes proposed by the
3 Committee. The report of the Committee may take the form of draft
4 legislation.

5 (f) Meetings.

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

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

11 (3) A majority of the membership of the Committee shall constitute a
12 quorum.

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

14 (g) Reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the
15 General Assembly, legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to
16 per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A.
17 § 406 for no more than six meetings. Other members of the Committee who
18 are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise
19 compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem
20 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for
21 no more than six meetings.

- 1 Second: In Sec. H.1, after subdivision (c)(1), by inserting a subdivision
2 (c)(2) to read as follows:
3 (2) Sec. A.16 shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

DRAFT