

DSCV

- There is no tradition or heritage in making a maple spirit as of yet. This type of legislation would come about with a consensus from the industry and a long tradition of production. Aged maple liquors are too new to be defined.
- Other Vermont distilleries are currently making barrel aged maple products and out of 16 members of the Distilled Spirits Council of Vermont 8 members currently make a product with maple as an ingredient. Five of these producers make Vermont barrel aged maple spirits that do not fit into the definition of "Vermont barrel aged maple spirits" as proposed by one distillery.
- The use of "aged" to describe "Vermont barrel aged maple spirits" is against federal labeling law. A spirit produced as described in this bill would be classified as class/type Distilled Spirits Specialty. According to the Beverage Alcohol Manual Chapter 8 a specific statement of age is not allowed, a miscellaneous age reference is not allowed, a vintage date is not allowed, and a distillation date is not allowed.
- The bill has no support of the 16 members of the Distilled Spirits Council and has the potential to negatively impact those that are currently producing maple alcohol products or plan on producing maple alcohol products in the future.