

1 H.675

2 Introduced by Representative Mrowicki of Putney

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Alcoholic beverages; Wholesale Spirits Study Committee

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish the
7 Wholesale Spirits Study Committee to study the feasibility of allowing
8 wholesalers to sell spirits directly to first-class licensees.

9 An act relating to the Wholesale Spirits Study Committee

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 Sec. 1. WHOLESALE SPIRITS STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT

12 (a) Creation. There is created the Wholesale Spirits Study Committee to
13 study the feasibility of allowing wholesalers to sell spirits directly to first-class
14 licensees.

15 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following
16 members:

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

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

1 (3) the Commissioner of Liquor and Lottery or designee;

2 (4) a representative from the wholesale beverage industry, appointed by
3 the Vermont Wholesale Beverage Association; and

4 (5) a representative from the restaurant industry, appointed by the
5 Executive Committee of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce.

6 (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study the feasibility of
7 allowing licensed wholesalers to sell spirits to restaurants and other first-class
8 licensees, including:

9 (1) the impact of wholesale spirits distribution on the State's model of
10 alcoholic beverages regulation;

11 (2) the fiscal impact that direct wholesale distribution of spirits may
12 have on the State; and

13 (3) a study of other states that allow wholesalers to sell spirits directly to
14 first-class licensees.

15 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
16 and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal
17 Office.

18 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2021, the Committee shall submit a
19 written report to the House Committee on General, Housing, and Military
20 Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and

1 General Affairs with its findings and any recommendations for legislative
2 action.

3 (f) Meetings.

4 (1) The Speaker of the House shall call the first meeting of the
5 Committee to occur on or before September 1, 2020.

6 (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the
7 first meeting.

8 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

9 (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 21, 2021.

10 (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

11 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
12 Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem
13 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for
14 not more than four meetings. These payments shall be made from monies
15 appropriated to the General Assembly.

16 (2) Other members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem
17 compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.
18 § 1010 for not more than four meetings. These payments shall be made from
19 monies appropriated to the Department of Liquor and Lottery.

20 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

21 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.