

No. 156. An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the laws governing alcoholic beverages and the Board of Liquor and Lottery.

(H.867)

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

* * * Special Venue Serving Permit; Retail Establishments * * *

Sec. 1. 7 V.S.A. § 2 is amended to read:

§ 2. DEFINITIONS

As used in this title:

* * *

(38) “Special venue serving permit” means a permit granted by the Division of Liquor Control permitting an art gallery, ~~bookstore~~ retail establishment, public library, or museum to conduct an event at which malt or vinous beverages, or both, are served by the glass to the public. As used in this section, “art gallery” means a fixed establishment whose primary purpose is to exhibit or offer for sale works of art; ~~“bookstore” means a fixed establishment whose primary purpose is to offer books for sale;~~ “public library” has the same meaning as in 22 V.S.A. § 101; and “museum” has the same meaning as in 27 V.S.A. § 1151. As used in this section, “retail establishment” does not include a Vermont agency liquor store or a cannabis establishment as that term is defined in section 861 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 2. 7 V.S.A. § 254 is amended to read:

§ 254. SPECIAL VENUE SERVING PERMITS

(a) The Division of Liquor Control may grant an art gallery, ~~bookstore~~ retail establishment, public library, or museum a special venue serving permit if the applicant has:

* * *

(c) A permit holder shall be subject to the provisions of this title and the rules of the Board regarding the service of alcoholic beverages. A permit holder shall be authorized to serve, but not sell, alcoholic beverages for not more than six hours and solely for consumption on the permitted premises.

* * *

(e) An art gallery, retail establishment, public library, or museum may be issued not more than 12 special venue serving permits in a calendar year.

(f) As used in this section, “retail establishment” does not include a Vermont agency liquor store or a cannabis establishment as that term is defined in section 861 of this title.

* * * 2026 Sunset of Special Venue Serving Permits

for Retail Establishments * * *

Sec. 3. 7 V.S.A. § 254 is amended to read:

§ 254. SPECIAL VENUE SERVING PERMITS

(a) The Division of Liquor Control may grant an art gallery, ~~retail establishment~~, public library, or museum a special venue serving permit if the applicant has:

* * *

(e) An art gallery, ~~retail establishment~~, public library, or museum may be issued not more than 12 special venue serving permits in a calendar year.

~~(f) As used in this section, “retail establishment” does not include a Vermont agency liquor store or a cannabis establishment as that term is defined in section 861 of this title.~~

Sec. 4. 7 V.S.A. § 2 is amended to read:

§ 2. DEFINITIONS

As used in this title:

* * *

(38) “Special venue serving permit” means a permit granted by the Division of Liquor Control permitting an art gallery, ~~retail establishment~~, public library, or museum to conduct an event at which malt or vinous beverages, or both, are served by the glass to the public. As used in this section, “art gallery” means a fixed establishment whose primary purpose is to exhibit or offer for sale works of art; “public library” has the same meaning as in 22 V.S.A. § 101; and “museum” has the same meaning as in 27 V.S.A. § 1151. ~~As used in this section, “retail establishment” does not include a~~

~~Vermont agency liquor store or a cannabis establishment as that term is defined in section 861 of this title.~~

* * *

* * * Sampling Event Permits * * *

Sec. 5. 7 V.S.A. § 253 is amended to read:

§ 253. SAMPLING EVENT PERMITS

* * *

(e)(1) A sampling event permit holder may purchase invoiced volumes of malt beverages, vinous beverages, or ready-to-drink spirits beverages directly from a manufacturer, wholesale dealer, or packager licensed in Vermont or a manufacturer, wholesale dealer, or packager that holds a federal Basic Permit or Brewers Notice or evidence of licensure in a foreign country that is satisfactory to the Board.

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* * * Special Event Permits * * *

Sec. 6. 7 V.S.A. § 252 is amended to read:

§ 252. SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS

* * *

(c) A licensed manufacturer or rectifier may be issued not more than ~~10~~ 20 special event permits for the same physical location in a calendar year.

* * * Liquor and Lottery Annual Report * * *

Sec. 7. 31 V.S.A. § 657 is amended to read:

§ 657. REPORT OF THE ~~BOARD~~ DEPARTMENT

The ~~Board~~ Department of Liquor and Lottery shall make an annual report to the Governor and to the General Assembly on or before the 10th day of ~~January~~ March in each year. The report shall include an account of the Board's actions and the receipts derived under the provisions of this chapter, the practical effects of the application of the proceeds of the Lottery, and any recommendation for legislation that the Board deems advisable.

* * * Extension of Liquor Liability Insurance Requirement * * *

Sec. 8. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 17, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

- (a) This section and Secs. 1 and 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2023.
- (b) Sec. 2 shall take effect on July 1, ~~2024~~ 2026.

* * * Retail Master License Report * * *

Sec. 9. RETAIL MASTER LICENSE; REPORT

On or before December 15, 2024, the Commissioner of Liquor and Lottery shall report to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs regarding the creation of a retail master license that can be granted to a person that acts as the parent corporation for licensed retail dealers or manufacturers that have merged and permits the license holder to provide

unified payroll and administrative services for the licensed retail dealers or manufacturers. The report shall include a proposal for legislation to create the license and an appropriate license fee.

* * * Tobacco Retail Audit * * *

Sec. 10. TOBACCO RETAIL AUDIT; INTENT; REPORT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that comprehensive data should be developed regarding the placement of beverage alcohol products in retail establishments to inform future public policy decisions by the General Assembly.

(b)(1) On or before January 15, 2025, the Department of Liquor and Lottery shall report to the House Committees on Government Operations and Military Affairs and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Health and Welfare regarding the results of the 2024 Tobacco Retail Audit.

(2) The report shall include detailed findings regarding the physical placement of beverage alcohol products within licensed retail establishments.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Sec. 5 shall take effect on passage.

(b) Secs. 3 and 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(c) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

Date Governor signed bill: June 4, 2024